



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
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9th May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 19463 23

“To ask the Minister for Health if the Mental Health Commission has concerns about the provision of three community mental health residence placements in east Cork and the apparent lack of progress on appointing a development team to appraise options for a new ten-bed service in Midleton, eleven months after this team was announced as being formed by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

A community residence has been purchased in Midleton town, for 3 residents. The model of service will be rehabilitation focussed with 24 hour healthcare professional staff supporting the residents. A refurbishment of the new property is required so as to comply with the regulations. This work is commencing in the coming weeks and will be due for completion by September /October 2023.

The HSE will also provide a new 10-bed rehabilitative residential unit in Midleton town. An initial appraisal of potential sites for a 10 bed unit in Midleton area is to be undertaken and a full appraisal will be completed when the design team is appointed. They will then engage with people using mental health services in the area. The Owenacurra site is among the possible locations considered. Design Team ETender has been submitted by the HSE with a 2 week return timeframe. A full feasibility review of sites will follow the appointment of the design team. The current outline project plan is very ambitious with a goal of commencing building in Quarter 1 2024, with a view to completion of the unit by Q1 2025, followed by a 6-8 week transition period prior to occupation. The development team will be appointed once capital approval is received for the unit.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare