



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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7th February, 2023

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question – 2726/23

To ask the Minister for Health the engagement he has had with the HSE since the cessation of the MYDAS (Midlands Youth Drug & Alcohol Services) Extern service 31 December 2022; the timeline for the commencement of the new service, considering young people in the midlands have been without this vital service and support since before Christmas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

HSE CADS (Community Alcohol & Drug Services) and the Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF) contracted Extern to provide U18 services across the Midlands region. This HSE contract ended 31st December, 2022.

On 1st January 2023 a new HSE U18 Drug & Alcohol Addiction Services was established. This service provides Drug & Alcohol Treatment Supports to those under 18 years and families across the counties of Laois/Offaly/ Longford & Westmeath. The development of this new service is a partnership between HSE CADS (Community Alcohol & Drug Services) and the Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF).

Prior to the commencement of the new service in January 2023, HSE CADS and the MRDATF liaised with the former service provider i.e. Extern Ireland with the priority being to ensure a smooth transition of service user care into the new HSE service. This was facilitated by the new HSE staff teams making direct contact with all existing service users and families in the first week in January.

I wish to confirm that there was no break in services and relevant treatment supports continued to be provided to service users as required.



I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation