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**Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 3
D02 XR20**

13th July 2023

PQ Ref: 32853/23 “To ask the Minister for Health if he has any plans to increase accommodation for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The development of a high quality Mid-West CAMHS service has been a key priority and focus for Mid-West Community Healthcare over the last three years and has led to improvements for the CAMHS service and has increased capacity in the CAMHS service in the Mid-West. This additional investment into the CAMHS service over the last three years is circa €2.5 million.

These developments have had a positive impact on all CAMHS teams including the two teams in Clare. Both of the teams have seen an increase in staffing levels, however, the increased staffing levels have placed additional pressure on already limited accommodation space.

The East Clare and West Clare CAMHS teams work out of a premises on the Quin Road in Ennis. HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare has experienced significant challenges in securing additional office and clinical space in Ennis. With the introduction of the new Primary Care Centre in Ennis and the relocation of services into this facility, Mental Health Services are currently exploring additional opportunities for suitable clinical and office space this might create.

Mid-West Community Healthcare are advancing a Capital plan for East Clare CAMHS in Inisgile Parteen, to facilitate clinics there, which would be suitable for service users from that side of the county. This will help to alleviate the pressure on space in Quinn Road. It is anticipated that this facility will be available for use in Q1 2023.

HSE Estates continues to explore all opportunities to acquire additional office and clinical space in the Ennis area to meet service needs. CAMHS services in Clare also access bookable rooms in the Kilrush Health Centre. Mid-West Community Healthcare are currently exploring options for outreach in West Clare. There is regular engagement with Clare CAMHS accommodation committee to explore reconfiguration of existing space to better support the work of the team.

The provision of appropriate clinical and office accommodation for Clare CAMHS services has been identified as a priority for Mid-West Community Healthcare. Every effort is being made to source and deliver on appropriate premises for service users and staff, particularly in the Ennis area. The anticipated opening of the accommodation in Inisgile in January 2024 will be a significant step in addressing the accommodation needs of Clare CAMHS.

Yours Sincerely,



Nuala Kelly,
Head of Service - Mental Health Service,
Mid-West Community Healthcare