



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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1st August 2023

Deputy Imelda Munster
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 32938/23 - To ask the Minister for Health being cognisant of the fact the population of Drogheda grew by 13% between 2016 and 2022, and with 25,000 new residents expected within a few years due to housing developments along the PANCR, what additional resources under the remit of his Department are being considered for Drogheda; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Imelda Munster

Dear Deputy Munster,

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 below.

Older Person Services

The HSE Older Persons Services (OPS) in Louth continue to work with voluntary, private and statutory providers through service level agreements in the delivery of services for older people in Louth. Recent developments in Drogheda include the construction of a new day service for people living with Dementia and the construction of a new thirty (30) bed dementia specific residential facility (replacing the existing Boyne View House) increasing the bed capacity by seven (7).

Under the Enhanced Community Care Programme, OPS in Louth is at an advanced stage in the establishment of integrated care teams for older people within the community. OPS in Louth continue to work very closely with acute and other HSE provided services in ensuring that older people in particular are discharged home or to their preferred location of care in as seamless a way possible. There has been significant investment in the Home Support Service in 2021 and 2022 to support the increase in demand for Home Support.

Disability Services

Children's Disability Teams (CDNTs) received development posts in 2021, 2022 and posts for Special Schools in 2023. There are challenges nationwide in recruiting therapists but with a recent renewed organisational focus on recruitment to children's services it is hoped that these teams will have enhanced capacity, available by year end.



Adult Teams are in place in Louth and respond to service user needs via a spectrum of supports e.g. Multi-disciplinary service, Home Support, Respite, Day Services and in some of the most complex cases a residential service.

Services will continue to develop in line with allocated resources.

Mental Health Services

The provision of specialist mental health services includes: acute inpatient care, day hospitals, outpatient clinics, community-based mental health services for children and adolescents (CAMHS), general adult, psychiatry of later life, community residential and continuing care residential services and peer-led services. Sub-specialties include: mental health intellectual disability, liaison mental health services, peer support, rehabilitation and recovery education.

In order to respond to the increasing demand in our services and the growing population in the catchment of the Louth/Meath Mental Health Services and in particular the Drogheda area, a number of service developments/initiatives have commenced or are planned to commence in the near future. These include the following:

- Planned extension of the Drogheda Department of Psychiatry acute in-patient unit by an additional 10 beds.
- Commencement of Talking Therapies programme in line with the National Model of Care which will enhance the availability of specific therapies and interventions within Louth/Meath Mental Health services and the respective Drogheda Sectors.
- The development of a CAMHS Crisis Hub Intervention team, with recruitment process commenced of a Multi-Disciplinary team, which will provide assessment, treatment and support services for children and adolescents during the acute phase of their mental health presentation.
- Through the Model of Care Older Persons, the development of a liaison team for both the nursing home population in Co. Louth and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. The consultant Psychiatrist has commenced in this role with the recruitment process commenced for nursing.
- The expansion of Open Dialogue model with plans to progress in Co. Louth and Drogheda Department of Psychiatry (DDOP).
- The extension of existing liaison services to a seven day service in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.
- The development of Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurses (SCAN) in the Drogheda area. This new role commenced in Q1 2023.



- The HSE National Counselling Service (NCS) will continue to provide Counselling for Adults who have Experienced Childhood Abuse and the Counselling in Primary Care service (CIPC) delivers short term counselling to clients presenting with mild to moderate psychological distress for people who hold a medical card.
- The NCS also continues to provide counselling to former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes, those impacted by Cervical Check/RCOG review as well as offering counselling to adults bereaved during the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- The commencement in Q4 2023 of Advanced Nurse Practitioner for Displaced Populations in Co. Louth.
- The commencement in Q3 2023 of Advanced Nurse Practitioner in the specialty of ADHD for the CAMHS Service.

It is acknowledged that the significant increase in the population will place additional pressures on our current resources and additional resources to meet this demand will continually be sought through the estimates process.

Primary Care Services

The HSE in South Louth Drogheda region have been implementing the community healthcare network in the area. The South Louth CHN will deliver primary healthcare services across the Drogheda area from Bettystown to Dunleer. It will consist of a number of primary care teams, with GPs involved in delivering services. Working together in multi-disciplinary teams will deliver the Sláintecare vision to provide the right care, in the right place at the right time. To help deliver on the CHN roll out each network received approximately 12 additional posts in the network including a network manager who will run the primary care network and manage the services of the network. The additional network staff are being recruited currently.

The CHN in South Louth will be further supported with Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease. These aim to improve the standard of care for four major chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. A Chronic Disease Team for Louth will be based in Drogheda and will deliver Chronic Disease Services for Louth and East Meath. The community hub will have an additional 32 post while additional posts have also been funded in OLOL to deliver on chronic disease pathways. A new consultant post for cardiovascular, diabetes and respiratory will be shared across the community hub and OLOL. The consultant, nursing, physiotherapy, dietician and administrative posts for the hubs are also being recruited currently.



Health and Wellbeing Department

HSE Health Promotion and Improvement department acknowledge the growing need in line with population increases in the Drogheda area. Below I detail the additional resources which have been received within the department and the resources which we currently fund or support in the greater Drogheda area.

NSP 2022- 1 WTE for ECC post in Louth. This post is to support smoking cessation as part of the ECC programme of work. The Smoking Cessation Service in Drogheda takes place in the Ballsgrove Health Centre (Wednesday 9am-4.30pm). Support can also be facilitated over the phone (Monday 9am-4.30pm).

To access clinic, contact Ms. Madeline Kennedy by email or over the phone:-

Email: Madeline.Kennedy@hse.ie Phone: 087-2363040

In relation to Grants, in 2023, HSE Health Promotion and Improvement (HP&I) Department has paid €1,500 to Dundalk Cuidiu that link with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital to provide peer breastfeeding supports. Cuidiu covers all of Co. Louth. Dundalk Outcomers who support people who identify as LGBTQI covers the Drogheda area also and they were funded €50,000 from HSE HP&I department. Dundalk Outcomers deliver training to the secondary schools in the Drogheda area. They also support the Outcomers Drogheda Adult service. This is an independent service to them but they provide training and support to those attending.

HSE HP&I have currently made provision for the staff from the Boomerang Youth Café to attend our scheduled Minding Your Wellbeing Programme in 2023. Our HSE HP&I Senior Dietitian provided Healthy Food Made Easy tutor training to staff in Boomerang Youth Café in Drogheda in May in the hope they will deliver programmes to teenagers and children relating to healthy eating and cookery.

Staff taking part in the HSE Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion (FPSHP) 2023 and 2022 have had significant representation from the Drogheda Mental Health Services. HSE HP&I continue to make provision for staff from this service in our future FPSHP courses.

Social Inclusion

The HSE have invested a substantial amount of additional funding within both the HSE Addiction Services and the HSE Section 39 funded services in Drogheda. The HSE are working very closely with the Section 39 leads to ensure there is an interagency approach for those who are or want to engage in the Addiction Treatment & Support services to ensure all services on the ground adopt a health-led approach that prioritises achieving better health and social outcomes for people affected by substance misuse. The HSE are also investing time and additional funding for identified training needs within the HSE Addiction services as well as other statutory, community and



voluntary services that might benefit from additional training. Further development of the HSE Addiction Services for the Drogheda area, as well as developing other supports as listed below can better help individuals, families and communities to improve community wellbeing in and around Drogheda.

The following additional staffing resources in Co Louth have been approved.

Addiction Services

- Senior Outreach Worker – LM area (Post approved, awaiting advertisement)
- Grade VI Section officers – CHO8 (In place 2023)
- Grade IV Administration officer – LM (In place 2023)
- Outreach workers X 2 - LM area (In place 2023)
- Social Care Lead – LM area (Post offered and accepted & awaiting confirmation on start date)
- Social Care Worker – LM area (Starting end of July 2023)
- DRIVE (Drug related intimidation & Violence Engagement) Lead – NE area (Tender being prepared)
- SOAR Lead (Screening and Brief intervention for Problem Alcohol & Drug Use) – CHO8 (Post approved, awaiting advertisement)
- Assistant Director of Nursing – CHO8 (To be advertised within the next week or so)
- Nurse X 2 – LM area (Second re-advertisement)
- Clinical Midwifery Nurse CHO8 (Currently awaiting Job specification approval from Nursing Service)
- General Assistants X 2 – LM area (Currently awaiting Job specification approval from Administration Service)

Other supports

- HSE is supporting the Red Door project to provide fixed Needle Exchange site. HSE providing the drug paraphernalia for the Needle Exchange programme as well as funding the insurance costs associated with providing this programme
- HSE is providing funding for 2 additional posts in the Red Door project, Drogheda i.e. A Social Worker and a Project Worker
- Interagency group established to look at safe disposal of drug litter. Committee consists of representatives community, statutory and voluntary groups with HSE and NERDATF membership on same
- SAOR training offered to all community/voluntary & statutory groups across the LM area
- Online information sessions offered to all frontline workers in the community/voluntary and statutory services e.g. Benzodiazepines use/Cocaine/Crack Cocaine etc.



- HSE in consultation with the NATP (National Addiction Training Programme) is in the process of looking at developing a Dual Diagnosis workshop for all community/voluntary and statutory frontline staff across the LM area
- General Assistants X 2 – LM area (in progress)

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 that reads 'Carole Broadbank'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation