



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

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4th April 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 13766/23

“To ask the Minister for Health how he can reconcile the provision of three residential community placements in the HSE catchment of Midleton, Youghal, Cobh and Glenville with the recommendation in A Vision for Change of thirty such placements for a population of 100,000, and the provision in the north Cork HSE catchment, which had a very similar population size of the north Cork HSE catchment, comprising the Mallow, Kanturk and Fermoy sectors, of forty-two such placements; how this can also be reconciled with the right of people with disabilities to live in their community, as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities (UNCRPD); 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.

Within the Cork region, there are different levels of support depending on the assessed needs of individuals. There are continuing care units and high-support hostels. There are three community residences North Cork; Carrigabrick Lodge in Fermoy, Cois Alla in Kanturk and Solas Nua in Mallow each consisting of fourteen beds and staffed on a twenty four hour basis.

The region of East Cork mostly falls under the North Lee catchment area, which is one of four catchment areas within Cork Mental Health Services (South Lee, North Lee, West Cork and North Cork). There are also three community residences in North Lee; Gouganne Barra House, Garnish House and St Colman's House which consists of a total of thirty-six beds.

There has been significant investment into the community in Cork. We have four home-based treatment teams, one of which is specifically for the east Cork region and the communities of Midleton, Youghal, Cobh and Carrigtwohill.

There is also a seven-day service in the community. This means that individuals can be seen every day if that is the level of support required. The introduction of that service has proven to be invaluable to individuals and their families when they have periods in which they require increased support. These teams have multidisciplinary support, so, again, they serve to enable individuals to address matters that are causing them either difficulty or distress. The input of social work, occupational therapy and psychology is invaluable, and the community supports are very strong.

Last year we provided a Psychiatry of Later Life community service that now covers all of Cork. Up until that, we would not have had a service for all of East Cork but now we do. It can provide support to individuals in their homes, residential settings for older persons and in nursing homes.

A further Rehabilitation Consultant Psychiatrist has been approved and has been recruited with the support of a new Multi-Disciplinary Team for Cork Mental Health Services. This Consultant will support individuals with severe and enduring mental illness in the community and have clinical governance of community



residences in North & South Lee. There is a focus on recovery , working with each individual to assist them have as independent a life as possible with a focus on achieving a high level of quality of life

As you may be aware, the HSE will provide a new 10-bed rehabilitative residential unit in Midleton town. This service will have 24 hour staffing, and will have a focus on support people to return to their homes and communities. A development team will be appointed to conduct an options appraisal, and engage with people using mental health services in the area. The Owenacurra site will be among the possible locations considered.

We have also purchased a property in Midleton which will be a community residence for Mental Health Services. The property will support three people. The treatment and care of the residents will be based on their assessed care needs.

The Owenacurra day service has now reopened and at a new location in Pairc an Aonaigh housing estate in Midleton. We are examining the best permanent location – this may be on the site of the existing Community Hospital where are you know considerable redevelopment is planned.

The plan for residential mental health services in the East Cork area will ultimately deliver a modern service into the future and in line with Government policy.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie O'Neill'.

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