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13th April 2023

Deputy Wynne,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 15782/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 348 of 9 March 2023, what provision has been made for post-natal hubs in County Clare, and the wider CH03; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 the following outlines the position.

Specifically in relation to postnatal care, one initiative that NWIHP is developing and deploying is the establishment of “Postnatal Hubs” in the community. The concept of the community hub is that it is a local centre where women can access various elements of care relevant to their postnatal journey. As these hubs develop, it is planned that the services available in these hubs or that can be easily accessed by women via these hubs will include perinatal mental health, lactation support, postnatal education, specialist pelvic floor physiotherapy services, etc.

A number of hospitals serving rural communities have been successfully awarded postnatal hub funding including Kerry, CUMH, Kilkenny, Sligo and Portlincula. Funds to expand postnatal hubs was sought by NWIHP as part of the 2023 estimate process, however such additional funding was not secured.

NWIHP again plan to seek funding in this area as part of the 2024 estimate process, with a view to delivering a wide geographical spread of postnatal hubs.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme