



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh, T12 XHT4

Office of Mental Health Service  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Caha House, Business & Technology  
Park, Model Farm Road, Cork,  
T12 XHT4

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T 021-4868268  
E [MHSCorkKerry@hse.ie](mailto:MHSCorkKerry@hse.ie)

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 22539/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will consider establishing community mental health residences in Cobh and Youghal, as well as Midleton, to bring the combined Midleton/Youghal and Cobh/Glenville HSE sectors up to the recommended allocation of 30 residential placements per 100,000 population as set out in A Vision for Change and to bring east Cork in line with the north Cork HSE catchment which currently has 42 community residential placements spread across the towns of Fermoy, Mallow and Kanturk, serving a very similar population size; 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 as 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. CKCH Mental Health Services will continue to work to develop and improve services across Cork and Kerry in line with available resources.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

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

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