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8th June 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23128/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 484 of 16 November 2021, 1715 of 19 January 2022, 169 of 9 February 2022, 186 of 23 March 2022, 720 of 17 May 2022, 1903 of 14 June 2022, 565 of 13 December 2022, 354 of 19 January 2023, 570 of 7 March 2023 and 1454 of 18 April 2023, when the clinical directors of the North Cork, West Cork and South Lee areas agreed to accept referrals of service-users requiring residential placement from the Midleton/Youghal and Cobh/Glenville into community residences under their clinical remit; if, in particular, the clinical directors in question were made aware of the increased need for placements from outside their areas resulting from the closure of the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton, prior to that closure being announced, when the HSE's plan at that stage was to not replace any residential mental health services in East Cork; 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.

At present there are 10 community residences located across North Cork, West Cork, North Lee and South Lee Mental Health Services. When a placement in a community residence is being considered, the multidisciplinary team will firstly meet the individual and their family members to establish the placement that best suits the individual's needs. If an appropriate placement is identified at this stage, then the treating Consultant will make the referral to the receiving Consultant of the appropriate community residence. Cases are assessed on a case by case basis. Factors such as clinical appropriateness as well as bed capacity amongst others are taken into account. This process is supported by all of the Clinical Directors.

I can confirm that referrals for all services within Cork Mental Health Services are available to any service user presently residing in Cork. If a services user has a preference to move to another area within Cork, a referral will be considered and assessed by the treating Consultant in the receiving catchment area.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely

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