



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
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Deputy Maurice Quinlivan
34 Denmark Street
Limerick

27 February 2024

PQ ref 49008/23 "To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made regarding the establishment in Limerick of the trial 24/7 mental health de-escalation unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

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.

The current situation in the HSE in relation to funding and recruitment restrictions has impacted on our ability to proceed with the recruitment of the specific staff needed to resource the CAST proposal in its original format and we are currently looking at how best we can deliver on the original intention of CAST from within existing resources.

In the current circumstances the HSE position is that the best option to deliver the intention of CAST is to stand up the Crisis Resolution Team (CRT) in Limerick. This team is due to be established as part of the new clinical programme and is a community based multidisciplinary team that provides rapid assessment and support to individuals in Mental Health Crisis. It's an alternative to inpatient admission and concentrates on providing care in people's communities and homes. A community café is part of the CRT model and could provide a key access point for the Gardai when engaging with people in crisis. Funding is in place for the CRT but additional approvals need to be in place before the programme can be fully implemented.

We acknowledge that the CRT does not provide a Garda co-response and therefore falls short of AGS expectation from CAST but we remain optimistic that the CRT would provide a meaningful response.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nuala Kelly".

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Mid West Community Healthcare