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23rd April 2024

Deputy Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 13872/24: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to establish a postnatal hub in Cavan.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 Portlincorney. Funds to expand postnatal hubs was sought by NWIHP as part of the 2024 estimate process with the Department of Health’s (DOH) Women’s Taskforce just recently continuing funding for an addition 4 postnatal hubs in 2024.

Once NWIHP have received further details from the DOH as to the nature and extent of this funding, it will engage with the 6 Maternity networks with a view to determine the next 4 locations. As part of the RCSI Maternity Network, Cavan General Hospital will be included in these discussions.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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