



Bainisteoir Ginearálta,
Cuimsiú Sóisialta – Seirbhíse Andúile,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.
☎: 01 8467338 📧: gmsidncc@hse.ie

General Manager,
Social Inclusion – Addiction Service,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Mr Mick Barry TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: mick.barry@oireachtas.ie

20th May 2024

PQ 2920/24 – *“To ask the Minister for Health to report on the services and access so far provided by the new mobile health unit run by the social inclusion team from CHO Dublin north city and county”* – **Mick Barry TD**

PQ 2921/24 – *“To ask the Minister for Health what LGBTQI+ health services are provided by the new mobile health unit run by the social inclusion team from CHO Dublin north city and county”* – **Mick Barry TD**

Dear Deputy Barry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The mobile health unit is a valuable addition to the Social Inclusion Team in HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). The mobile unit is used by the Migrant Health Team at Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) and International Protection Accommodation Settings (IPAS) settings. There are currently 56 locations in CHO DNCC where there is limited suitable indoor space in which initial health assessments are conducted and this unit provides an alternative space. The mobile health unit has also been used by the Migrant Health team to host Virtual GP sessions and to support the Catch-Up Vaccination programme at BOTP and IPAS settings providing a separate, confidential, safe and calm environment for both patients and vaccination staff.

It is envisaged that the mobile health unit will also prove to be a valuable asset in broadening the availability and accessibility of services to other marginalised communities including Travellers and Roma under the remit of CHO DNCC Social Inclusion going forward.

At present the Mobile Health Unit does not provide LGBTQI+ health services as CHO DNCC have a funding arrangement in place with HIV Ireland to provide this service through their mobile health unit to LGBTQI+ in CHO DNCC.

HIV Ireland and ACET (AIDS Care Education & Training) Ireland have together launched the EQUAL Check + Chat Mobile Screening Service. The service will provide access to rapid testing for HIV and other blood borne viruses, including Syphilis, Hepatitis C, in community settings. The service is free and confidential. Equal Check + Chat is a community-led service aimed at anyone who needs information about, and access to, rapid screening services, with an emphasis on communities less likely to access clinic based services. To discuss how service users could benefit from mobile screening, contact **Ann Piercy, EQUAL Check + Chat Mobile Screening Coordinator** at Ann.Piercy@hivireland.ie

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kirwan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Brian Kirwan
General Manager
Social Inclusion/Addiction Services