



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

16th July, 2024

PQ No: 21398/24

To ask the Minister for Health the locations where the community specialist teams for older persons have yet to be established; and the timeframe for when those teams will be established.

Dear Deputy Clarke

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The ECC Programme defines Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) Community Specialist Teams as operational when they have a Clinical Lead (Consultant Geriatrician), Operational Lead and 50% of the team on-boarded. There are 3 locations where there are teams in place but they do not yet meet this definition of 'operational'. These teams are identified below and a status summary provided.

Cork/ North Cork (Mallow)

This team provides a service for people residing in the area covered by Community Health Networks for **Mallow, Charleville, Newmarket, Kanturk, Millstreet, Northeast Cork, East Central Cork**. The Consultant Geriatrician post remains vacant currently. The Operational Lead post is also vacant. A number of clinical posts have been filled including Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Clinical Nurse Specialist Gerontology and Advanced Nurse Practitioner. These clinical staff are currently working from the Cork City ICPOP hub. Local discussions on interim governance arrangements are underway to allow the North Cork hub to be operationalised in the near future.

Drogheda Team 2 (Meath)

This team provides a service for people residing in the area covered by Community Health Networks for **North Meath and Ardee, Central Meath and Southwest Meath**. There is currently an Operational Lead in place for this team and the Consultant Geriatrician post remains vacant. This team currently includes Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Clinical



Nurse Specialist Gerontology and is accepting referrals from GPs with the patient remaining under the clinical governance of the GP.

Mullingar

This team provides a service for older adults residing in the area covered by the Community Health Networks for **East Westmeath, Longford & Central Westmeath and West Westmeath & Northwest Offaly**. There was previously an Operational Lead in place but this role was vacated. The Consultant Geriatrician post remains vacant. A Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist have been recruited to the team and have been deployed to other services for older adults while the team is operationalised. The timeframe for this is dependent on the recruitment framework.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**