



Ceann Seirbhíse, Meabhairshláinte  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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Jen Cummins TD,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 XR20.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**PQ 33826/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health her plans to increase the availability of mental health services in Ballyfermot, particularly for elderly people.**

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Dear Deputy Cummins,

I refer to the above representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

For those aged over 65, Services are provided by 2 separate Teams:

The Psychiatry of Later Life Team provides specialist Mental Health Services to people who are coming to the service for the first time at or over the age of 65. We work in partnership with local GPs, Hospitals and other local Health Care and Social Services.

We also have three Consultant Psychiatrists in General Adult Psychiatry who lead a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) in caring for adults aged 18-65 in the Ballyfermot area with moderate-severe Psychiatric illness in the Community; a small cohort of their patients have been in the Service for many years and their care continues with the General Adult service after 65. Both Teams are generally available to provide care or respond to our patients from 9-5 Monday to Friday (different MDT members have differing availability), and we have a Nursing Outreach Team available on Saturdays and Sundays to assist with our patients who need intensive input.

### **Services**

- New Patient Service
- Out Patient Service
- Day Hospital
- Home Care

## **Group Programmes**

- Well Elderly or Lifestyle Redesign Group
- Stress Management

## **Therapies**

- Behavioural Family Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Psychosis
- Family Therapy

A key component of availability is that the Services in question are adequately resourced. This is a particular concern as census figures show that the number of people over the age of 65 is due to increase significantly in the coming years. We will continue to advocate for levels of staffing to be increased in line with recommendations, to ensure improved accessibility and timely access to the Service. This information will be submitted to the National Clinical leads office for their feedback and via the normal estimates processes where opportunities arise.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, should you require any further clarification please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Mr Kevin Brady,**  
**Head of Service Mental Health**  
**Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare West Wicklow**