



3rd June 2020

Deputy Seán Crowe, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 7044/20

To ask the Minister for Health the specific challenges facing community projects that the attention of his Department has been drawn to regarding places for residential addiction supports; the actions taken to alleviate them; and when access will be resumed

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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

The HSE have developed a formal programme of work under the governance of the Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operations Officer namely the Continuity of System Wide Healthcare Services Steering Group. This programme of work is a priority for the Health Service Executive and every effort will be made to restore Non-COVID services as soon as possible in a safe and effective way.

All services whether in the Statutory, Community or Voluntary sector will face challenges in resumption of 'normal' work practice as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Issues now arise in terms of maintaining social distancing in providing care, implementing Public Health measures and the use of teleconsultations as a new method of delivering psychosocial interventions. In relation to residential addiction facilities, service providers are being asked to engage with the local HSE Addiction service managers who are the holders of the Service Level Agreement for the provision of care.

To support this process all Tier 4 residential service providers were invited to attend a Webinar on the 14th of May entitled 'COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control guidance for Vulnerable Group Settings'. This was hosted by Prof Martin Cormican, National Clinical Lead – Antimicrobial Resistance Infection Control (AMRIC) and covered issues pertaining to residential settings.

Care will be reintroduced in a planned, appropriate and considered manner which optimises patient care while minimising risks to the public, to healthcare staff and to the wider healthcare system. The focus is to plan the recommencement of the delivery of Non-COVID Services to address ongoing clinical demands while maintaining capacity for COVID-19 rapid response.



I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist