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An Tulach Mhór
Co Uíbh Fhailí

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14th January 2020

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ – 53830/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the progress regarding all proposed new Primary Care Centres in the County Louth and east County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 outline the position as follows.

County Louth - Dundalk

A review of a the clinical/service requirements across care groups for proposed new Primary Care in Dundalk has taken place due to the need to include additional space in the building to accommodate disability and other services. Following this review a revised updated proposal is ready for submission to the Property Review Group of the HSE for consideration and approval.

The updated proposal includes provision for an extensive range of Primary and Community Healthcare Services, including, Primary Care Team and Network Services, Disability Services and Community Mental Health Services.

As soon as the additional space is approved this project will progress to the next stage of development.

Castlebellingham

The Health Service Executive proposes to extend and refurbish Castlebellingham Primary Care Centre. The development of the centre will provide a base for the local Primary Care Team and facilitate other visiting network services.

The site currently has planning permission for a new build extension and refurbishment of the existing facility. The project has recently been reviewed nationally and is approved for inclusion on the National Capital Plan. A delivery date is dependent on capital funding becoming available.

GP and Public Health Nursing services are currently delivered from this centre. Following completion of the extension and refurbishment the centre will facilitate the delivery of additional services of Occupation Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech & Language Therapy, together with visiting services such as Primary Care Counselling, Psychology and Dietetics.

Carlingford

A new build extension and refurbishment of Carlingford Health Centre took place some years ago and this centre has sufficient space to accommodate the local Carlingford Primary Care Team Services and visiting network service.

South Louth Area

Clogherhead

In 2016 the HSE built a major extension on to the primary care centre in Clogherhead where services include GP, Public Health Nursing including specialist tissue viability services, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

Drogheda

In 2017 a major refurbishment of Ballsgrove Primary Care Centre took place following a fire which took place in December 2016.

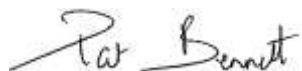
In 2018 we opened Boyne Primary Care Centre in Drogheda, The full range of primary care services are provided from the centre and these include: Public Health Nursing, Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Wound Management, Phlebotomy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Nutritional advice and support as well as Schemes Support such as Medical Cards, EHIC, LTI , etc. Dental, Civil Registration and GP Services are also co-located on site.

South Meath - Bettystown Primary Care Centre

The new Bettystown Primary Care Centre is progressing through the HSE Estates Operational Lease mechanism. Layouts are signed off by the service and HSE National Property Review Group approval has been granted. It is anticipated that this project will be operational by Q1 2022.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation