

22nd April, 2024

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 13741/24

"To ask the Minister for Health if he plans to make a speech and language therapy clinic available in Ospidéal Pobail Chorca Dhuibhne, County Kerry, to enable children in local area to access same rather than travelling to Tralee."

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Sláintecare's vision to put people at the centre of the health system, as we continue to 'shift left' and embed the Enhanced Community Care ECC model we are creating a health and social care service where people can access the right services, at the right time, closer to home.

With respect to Kerry, the three Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) have been established and are fully operational. Primary Care Tralee /West Kerry have 2 Speech & Language Therapist delivering a service specifically to the children and adolescent population of West Kerry. They are located in Dingle Hospital. This has been established to recognise the need to deliver services to where individuals reside insofar as possible.

Where it is not feasible for children to attend for clinic appointments, and it is deemed clinically appropriate, a domiciliary visit will be accommodated. Notwithstanding the staffing shortage due the present recruitment embargo, ensuring accessibility to essential services at a local level remains a top priority for us.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare