



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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15th April, 2024

Deputy Robert Troy
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ Ref 14771/24 – Requesting the re-examination of the transfer of the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Services to Longford for parts of Westmeath who previously attended Clonbrusk in Athlone and if these services must remain in Longford as there are currently no direct transport links to Longford from the affected areas.

Dear Deputy Troy,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your representation has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

With the National roll out of the Community Healthcare Network (CHN) model of primary care service delivery, new healthcare boundaries were created. There are 96 CHNs across the island of Ireland. There are three CHNs within the two counties of Longford and Westmeath namely:

1. East Westmeath,
2. Longford Central Westmeath and
3. Westmeath West and North Offaly.

The implementation of the CHN model has mapped all townlands to a CHN area; this has resulted in some areas of central Westmeath, being mapped to a new network boundary. The impact of this results in residents attending primary care appointments in different primary care locations.

Some central Westmeath townlands were previously aligned by postal address to Co. Westmeath and their primary care services were accessed in Athlone Primary Care Centre. However, due to the National Network boundary changes these townlands are now being served by Longford-Central Westmeath Primary Care Services, currently based in Longford Town.



The Ballymahon PCT has a population of approximately 13, 500 and plans are underway to build a PCC in Ballymahon, with this proposed development service will be more closely aligned with central Westmeath geographically. Once this Primary care Centre is in situ, multi-disciplinary services will be provided from this location, including occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

We appreciate the frustrations felt by some and understand some service users will not welcome the changes brought about. This National implementation of the Community Health Network model is not within the remit of the CHN managers to re-examine or alter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret M.J. Kelleher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Margaret Kelleher
A/Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation