



Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin
Réigiúnach

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24.04.2024

Deputy Alan Kelly
1 Summerhill,
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary

RE PQ 15598/24 To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline, given his decision to repurpose the new 50-bed community nursing home unit in Nenagh, what he is proposing the HSE does now to substitute for this and to provide long- and short-term nursing home care to the people of Nenagh and north Tipperary. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above public representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Mid West Region recognise the immediate requirement to further reform our services and progress new care pathways to respond appropriately to increased demand for unscheduled care while also being very mindful of the requirement to deliver timely scheduled/elective care.

The recent in-year additional investment announced for HSE Mid West Region by Minister Stephen Donnelly TD on his recent visit to UHL is very welcomed. As you know this is in addition to the sustained health and social care investment across this region. The additional capital investment amounts to €156m and will enable us proceed with the build of a new 96 Bed Block (circa delivery 2027) and a Rapid Build 16 bed ward (to be delivered before winter 2024). In addition, the Minister announced €79.6m recurring revenue funding for additional staff across the HSE Mid West Region (717 additional staff).

The HSE is progressing plans for the interim use of Nenagh Community Nursing Unit as a sub-acute rehabilitation facility operated by a private provider; in parallel the HSE will shortly commence the recruitment process for transition to the intended purpose of Nenagh CNU, it is fully intended the staff and residents of St Conlon's will then move to the CNU. As you know Deputy, the process to recruit suitably qualified staff for the unit could take up to 12 months or longer. A regional recruitment plan is under development owing to the number of posts to be filled for new service developments and replacement posts because of natural attrition of staff across the Health Service.

The benefit of having access to rehabilitation and sub-acute care for our elderly population of North Tipperary cannot be under estimated. Older People will avail of the right care and closer



to their own homes and communities. As you know, inpatient rehabilitation has many positive impacts, not least because it enables recovery of the older person meaning they can live an independent life, for longer, in their own homes and reduce the overall risk of readmission to acute hospital. The interim use of Nenagh CNU as a step down facility will also reduce the overall number of people waiting on trolleys for an acute bed at UHL. The use of the facility, in the interim, will also help us to better manage elective admissions and ensure timely access to scheduled care across the hospital group. I should emphasise Deputy, no residents of St Conlon's will be discommoded owing to this interim decision and the existing St Conlon's will continue to operate while the recruitment for the new CNU is finalised. The HSE are fully committed to opening Nenagh CNU as a long term care facility. We are equally committed to developing additional inpatient rehabilitation capacity for older people across this region including North Tipperary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandra Broderick'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Regional Executive Officer, HSE Mid-West