



Patricia Ryan TD,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.

30th April 2024

PQ 15682/24

To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the reason an organisation (details supplied) does not provide mental health services to private nursing homes in Kildare, but does provide that service in County Laois; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

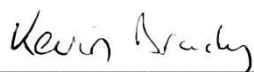
I have liaised with the Clinical Director for Kildare West Wicklow and have been advised of the following.

In the past all those over 65 years, were seen by the General Adult Psychiatry teams in Kildare.

- In 2015 funding was obtained to begin to develop a PLL (Psychiatry for Later Life) team
- There were two further posts added to the PLL team since 2015
- The population over 65 years served in Laois Offaly according to the 2022 census is 24,936 and there are 16.3 WTE (Whole time equivalent) in that service
- The population over 65 years served in Kildare West Wicklow according to the 2022 census is 32,723 (that is 31% higher), and the number of WTE's in Kildare West Wicklow is 9.3 WTE (57% of the WTE in Laois Offaly). The per capita staffing of the KWW PLL service is amongst the lowest in the country
- Because there is such a small team in PLL in Kildare West Wicklow, the service has had to focus on community and in-patient care
- There have not been sufficient staff to provide a specialist service to nursing home residents, and these patients receive a service when needed by the general adult psychiatry teams
- The PLL service hopes to develop a specialist mental health nursing home in-reach service when sufficient staffing becomes available.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Kevin Brady,
Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Dublin South, Kildare West Wicklow Community Healthcare