



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
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22nd July, 2024

Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Questions – 26229/24 & 29673/24

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on Graiguecullen health centre and the restoration of services there that were available pre-Covid, such as physiotherapy, eye tests, speech and language, mental health services and community welfare officer visitations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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 with regard to Graiguecullen Health Centre.

Primary Care Services

Primary Care Services that operated from Graiguecullen Health Centre prior to Covid-19 still operate currently. Physiotherapy Services are operating from Graiguecullen Health Centre, Oakley Park and never ceased. Speech & Language Therapy Services are operating from Graiguecullen Health Centre, Oakley Park and never ceased. Public Health Nursing Services which includes some mop-up School Screening Services (e.g. eye tests) continue operating from Graiguecullen Health Centre and never ceased.

Mental Health Services

Portlaoise Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) is the responsible team for this area, and has for many years held an Outpatients Clinic there twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon, under the direction of Dr Jim Daly, Consultant Psychiatrist.

For a period of time during Covid, this clinic relocated to Bridge Street, Portlaoise as Oakley Park Health Centre was not considered to be a suitable space at the time. This was due to extremely limited space, concerns regarding Infection Prevention and Control measures, and a very small shared waiting room which did not allow for social distancing.

In 2021, the Assistant Director of Nursing secured access to the Outpatients Department in St Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow for the two Wednesday afternoons required monthly, and this is where the Outpatients Clinic continues to take place to date.



Portlaoise CMHT continues to work from Oakley Park Health Centre, Graiguecullen outside of this clinic arrangement, and the team continues to hold a space there. There is one room dedicated to Mental Health Services which is utilised by the multi-disciplinary team members to meet service users for one-to-one appointments in that area (e.g. Community Mental Health Nurse, Social Worker, Occupational Therapy, Psychology). As such, from a Mental Health perspective, there has been no reduction of services post-Covid.

In response to your query on Community Welfare officer visitations, please be advised that this service is under the remit of the Department of Social Protection.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB', written in a cursive style.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation