

2nd October, 2024

Mr. David Stanton, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 39401/24

" To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to provide a primary care centre for Youghal, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Stanton,

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.

Primary Care Community Healthcare Networks are organised and provide services on a population basis as outlined in the " Slaintecare Report" and the "Programme for Government: Our shared future". Ireland has an aging population and it is predicted that there will be a 32% increase in over 65s and 41% increase in over 85s by 2026. There are 96 networks nationwide. There are 14 networks operational across Cork and Kerry and Network 6 covers Midleton and Youghal. I refer to your motion regarding services that will be provided in the new Primary Care Centre in Youghal.

Community Healthcare Network 6 (CHN6), known as East Central Cork Network, has a total population of 45,441 (per 2016 census figures) and consists of 3 geographically based primary care multidisciplinary teams (MDT) that seeks to manage and deliver services locally to provide high-quality person-centred care. The 3 teams serve Midleton North, Midleton South and Youghal/Cloyne.

The community healthcare network:

- Aims to strengthen collaborative multi-disciplinary team working in Primary Care;
- Ensures a more co-ordinated and consistent care for people using our services;
- Improves Integration with our community Services; and
- Manages and delivers local services to a defined population.

The new primary care centre is fundamental to the delivery of service reforms set out in "Slainte Care" and the roll-out of the new Regional Health Authority's in Network 6, thus is a key priority for the HSE in 2024 and beyond. It will assist in the provision of safe and effective health and social care services in Youghal and will improve our health service and the health and wellbeing of the people living in Youghal by providing the "right care, in the right place, at the right time". It will support service users to live well and feel connected to their community. This empowerment in turn will assist service users to live independent lives in their own homes in Youghal. The co-location of services will also assist disciplines to provide person centred and optimal care for service users, families and the public in a way that is integrated and coordinated, thus instilling trust and confidence in the organisation.

The services provided by Primary Care include Podiatry, Vision Testing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Public Health Nursing Services, Area Medical Officer and Dental Services is planned that Youghal Primary Care Centre will have all of the above services available to the people in Youghal. In addition to these services, Children Disability Network Team (CDNT), Home Support Outreach and Mental Health Services and will also be provided in the Primary Care Centre.

The Primary Care Centre in Youghal has been lodged for planning approval and is currently with the local Authority Planning Department for their consideration. Pending the outcome of the planning process, the appropriate next step will be enacted with respect to progressing same.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mari O'Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'O'.

Mari O'Donovan
Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare