



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,  
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail 8,  
Lár Tíre / Lú/an Mhí, Feidhmeannacht  
na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair  
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11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

Ms. Roisin Shortall T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 16340/17**

To ask the Minister for Health the drug treatment services available in the midlands area generally and specifically in counties Westmeath and Longford; the services that have ceased in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Róisín Shortall.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 the following outlines the position.

Community drug treatment services across the Midland Counties of Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly are managed under CHO8 through the Community Alcohol and Drugs Service (CADS). Assessment, referral and treatment services are available in the community for both adults and under-18's who are concerned with their own or another person's drug or alcohol use. Clients can self-refer or be referred by a GP, Consultant, Social Worker, Probation and Welfare Services, Gardaí, Courts or other statutory or voluntary agency.

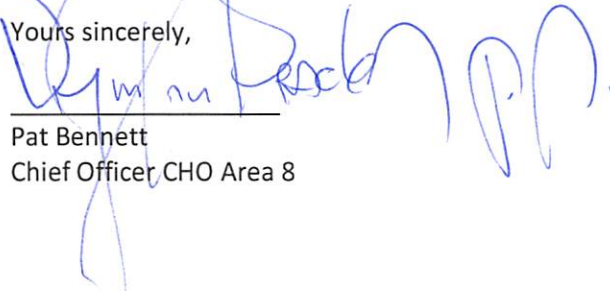
The services provided are as follows:

- Methadone Maintenance Programme
- Community Detox Programme
- Counselling
- Consultant Psychiatrist with an interest in Substance Misuse
- Alternative Therapies
- Viral Screening
- Vaccinations
- Wound Care
- Health advice and promotion, including harm reduction

There has been no cessation in community drug treatment services over the past five years. Services have been expanded and developed, with two new treatment centres being opened in the region during that time, one in the Athlone Primary Care Centre and one on the grounds of the former St. Mary's Care Centre in Mullingar. A further treatment centre is planned for Portlaoise and it is expected that building work will commence in 2017.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer CHO Area 8