



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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1st June, 2023

Ms. Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question – 20760/23

To ask the Minister for Health if the addiction service for those under 18 years in the midlands counties, which was delivered by the Midlands Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce in counties Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath is now fully staffed and operational.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 I outline the position as follows:

On 1st January 2023 a new HSE U18 Drug & Alcohol Addiction Service was established. This service provides Drug & Alcohol Treatment Supports to those under 18 years and families across the counties of Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath. The development of this new service is a partnership between HSE CADS (Community Alcohol & Drug Services) and the Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF).

The service consists of one Social Care Leader and four Social Care Workers, one assigned to each county as well as an Addiction Counsellor providing support across the Midlands area. All of these posts are in place. In addition, we have secured funding to appoint a Senior Clinical Psychologist and a CNM1 Nurse for the Midlands area which will further enhance the services available to both u18's and families. Recruitment is currently underway for both posts.

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,

Anne Kennedy
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation

