

From: Department of Health [<mailto:Health-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>]
Sent: Monday 8 February 2021 11:38
To: Contact User
Subject: HEA-MO-02581-2021

HEA-MO-02581-2021 8th February 2021

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., has asked me to thank you for your recent letter dated 01 February, concerning St Brigid's Hospital, Carrick on Suir.

As you are aware, a final decision has been made by the HSE to discontinue short stay services at St. Brigid's Hospital. Unfortunately, they have decided that it is no longer feasible or sustainable to continue to operate St Brigid's as a District Hospital from an infection, prevention and control perspective given the layout of the premises, the narrow hallways and the inadequate space and facilities. It is important to note that people in the Carrick-on-Suir area who require convalescent, respite and/or palliative care services are being assessed on a case-by-case basis and fully supported with referrals in alternative settings in the South Tipperary area including St Theresa's Hospital -Clogheen, Cluain Arann - Tipperary Town, and Greenhills and Sonas nursing homes - Carrick-on-Suir.

With regards to the St. Brigid's premises itself, it is proposed to utilise the existing premises as a base for a newly created Community Healthcare Network in South Tipperary along with serving as a base for members of a Chronic Disease Management Team (with a focus on Diabetes). The use of St Brigid's for the CHN team along with Chronic Disease Management staff will be an important and welcome step towards achieving integrated care in the South Tipperary area. St. Brigid's is ideally located adjacent to the Primary Care Centre and as such the co-location of these buildings will enable for integrated and multi-disciplinary working.

The Diabetes Team will provide a One Stop Shop service for the Management of Diabetes Care. Affiliated to the Diabetes Team and based in St. Brigid's will include the following:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (Diabetes)
- Senior Dietician
- Staff Dietician
- Podiatrist

A detailed project plan has been developed and work has commenced, to ensure that there is a targeted focus on the development of the teams at St. Brigid's in Carrick-on-Suir. As part of this there will be a particular focus on the development of a detailed local implementation plan for the establishment of the CHN.

With regard to funding and donations for St Brigid's and palliative care, I can advise that no monies have been collected since March 2020. The HSE will commence a process and take the necessary advice and approach in terms of governance and due diligence to ensure that all funding is managed appropriately and transparently and in line with requirements.

I hope this has been of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,
Miriam Rooney
Private Secretary to the Minister for Health