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Anger at 'temporary' closure of Day Care Centre in Boyle

PROTEST SCHEDULED

■ Seamus Duke

A Day Care facility which caters for about 50 elderly people at The Plunkett Home in Boyle will close on a temporary basis on this Monday, 8th March. The facility was reduced from a five-day service to a three-day service in November.

News of the three-month closure has angered local community leaders and politicians alike. Local Fine Gael TD Frank Feighan says that he is "outraged" by the HSE's decision to close the facility.

"The HSE may say that this facility will only be closed for three months but we all know that when these places close it is very hard to open them again" he told the Roscommon People.

"I raised the matter in The Dail on Tuesday and I will be raising it again until we get this facility re-opened. It is a disgrace that this service is being withdrawn from people who have given their lives working hard for this country.

"People in Boyle and surrounding areas are livid with this decision and it is a further sign of a government who simply does not care about the elderly or the vulnerable in our society" he concluded.

Residents who use the facility staged a protest at the Plunkett Home yesterday morning (Wednesday). At a meeting of

Boyle Town Council held on Tuesday night, members agreed to request a meeting with Minister Michael Finneran on the issue of services at the Home, the reduction in bed numbers, and the closure of the Day Care unit.

The Mayor of Boyle Town Council, Cllr. Jan Flanagan, says the Town Council are going to organise a public demonstration before the end of the week and they will be calling on the local community to come out to support them.

A spokesperson for the HSE confirmed that it is temporarily

closing the Day Care Service at the Plunkett Community Nursing Unit in Boyle from Monday next, March 8th. The statement reads as follows: "We currently have a number of vacancies in the service and due to the moratorium we are unable to recruit replacement staff. We appreciate this is an inconvenience for clients of this service but we must have appropriate staffing levels to run any service safely. We have suspended the service for a period of three months and will make every effort to restore it as quickly as possible".



Deputy Frank Feighan



Mayor of Boyle Town Council, Cllr. Jan Flanagan

Advertorial

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