



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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12th December 2019

Deputy John Curran TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 52341/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the specific actions taken to date in 2019 to improve outcomes for persons with co-morbid severe mental illness and substance misuse problems - John Curran. -John Curran

Dear Deputy Curran,

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.

The National Clinical Programme for Dual Diagnosis has progressed to the stage that there is a draft Model of Care in place which takes account of service user views, and describes the clinical pathway for patients with substance misuse and significant (moderate to severe) mental illness, including connectivity with primary care substance misuse services, community mental health service and acute services. This has been informed by international best practice and the experience of the National Working Group. The Health Research Board also produced the 'Realist Review' looking at the evidence base around Dual Diagnosis interventions.

In the absence of a Clinical Lead currently, Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain – the National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health – is keen to maintain progress and to continue development. Dr Ní Bhriain is working closely with Dr Eamon Keenan – National Clinical Lead for the Drugs Strategy and Social Inclusion – to ensure that a comprehensive approach is taken to the care of those with Dual Diagnosis, bearing in mind that they can present to any part of the health service. Given the absence of a Clinical lead, a brief has been developed to progress the issue of Dual Diagnosis as a Service Improvement Project. This will be considered in January



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Both Drs Ní Bhriain and Keenan are keen that the approach to service delivery is coherent with Sláintecare in that it is integrated across the many interfaces where people can present and is oriented towards service users, families and communities. Service user and family member representation from the Dual Diagnosis population continues to be essential to the development of Dual Diagnosis services. Drs Ni Bhriain and Keenan did meet with relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue of Dual Diagnosis and these include service representative group from the Addiction side and family members directly affected by the issue.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Siobhán Ní Bhriain M.R.C.P. (U.K.), M.R.C.Psych., M.C.R.N.:15579.
National Clinical Programme Group Lead.