



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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25<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

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

PQ 28989/19 To ask the Minister for Health the specific actions that have been taken during 2018 to  
Question: improve outcomes for persons with co-morbid severe mental illness and substance misuse  
problems - 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.

One of the HSE mental health clinical programs currently operating is the Dual Diagnosis National Clinical Program. An integral part of the Dual Diagnosis (DD) NCP is to devise a model of care that will ensure that all adolescents and adults suspected of having a moderate to severe mental illness co-existing with significant substance misuse have access to timely mental health services nationally. To date the following list are some of the tasks carried out as part of the Dual Diagnosis NCP.

- A literature review
- Review of existing Irish research
- Invited presentations on:
  - the role of an Occupational Therapist
  - the role of an Psychologist
  - the role of Social Work in dual diagnosis presentations
  - Service advocate/service user needs
  - the assessment process



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- Established links with other key clinical areas such as addiction services in Primary Care services.

Currently work is progressing on the first draft of a Model of Care for dual diagnosis which upon completion will be submitted to the National Working Group. The Model of Care will describe 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 is being informed by international best practice and the experience of the National Working Group.

Following this, the next step is to send the draft Model of Care to the College of Psychiatry of Ireland, Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) for further input.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services