



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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07/08/2019

Deputy James Browne, T.D,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 29641/19

Question:

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the expansion of rehabilitation services to respond to the needs of those with enduring mental illness and challenging behaviour; the location of the additional services; the number of additional staff employed in whole-time equivalent terms; the number of service users in receipt of such services; and the way in which this compares to 2018 -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne

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.

In 2017 the HSE initiated a national project to improve Rehabilitation services for service users with severe and enduring mental illness. This project included the development of a Model of Care for people with severe and enduring mental illness and complex needs. This model of care describes a rehabilitation care pathway that ensures the needs of people with complex mental health needs are met.

A significant component of this rehabilitation pathway is the Specialised Rehabilitation Unit (SRU). An SRU is designed as an inpatient approved centre providing 24-hour care. Its primary focus is on active medium-term rehabilitation providing a wide range of services such as psychological interventions, self care and living skills, medication management, peer support, creative therapies and physical health. Service users progressing across levels of care should be the SRU's primary goal with the expected length of stay being 1 to 3 years (Killaspy et al., 2012). However, it is crucial that SRUs are not viewed as standalone units, but rather as part of a whole-system rehabilitation care pathway to ensure successful rehabilitation and recovery for people with complex mental health needs. Because of this it is not possible to provide a number of additional staff employed in whole time equivalent terms.

The HSE remains committed to improving rehabilitation and recovery services for people with severe and enduring mental illness and complex needs and in October 2018 commissioned two specialised rehabilitation units (SRUs). These two SRUs initially provided 19 national placements for people with severe and enduring



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mental illness and complex needs with a further 8 placements due to open in August 2019. It is also anticipated that further specialised rehabilitation units will be developed and community rehabilitation services expanded throughout the country within the coming years in order to meet the needs of all service users who require such services.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr. Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services