



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the National Clinical Advisor
and Group Lead Mental Health
Room 1.25 Dr Steevens' Hospital
Steevens' Lane
Dublin 8
Telephone: (01) 6352253
Email: ncagl.mentalhealth@hse.ie

Deputy James Browne
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

27th August 2019.

PQ Number: 29642/19

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the implementation of the model of care for specialist perinatal mental health services; and the number of additional staff in whole-time equivalent terms appointed to date in 2019 -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.

Funding for the six Specialist Perinatal Mental Health hub teams was provided in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to a total of €3m. Staff for these teams is currently being recruited. The National Women & Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), with which this Model of Care is being jointly delivered, provided funding for the Mental Health Midwives this year. This is for each Hub Hospital which do not currently have one, and also for each Spoke Hospital.

1) 2017 FUNDING: €1 million

One million euro was allocated by the Mental Health Section of the Department of Health in 2017. This funding has been used to recruit the Perinatal Psychiatrists required for each of the 6 hubs together with a Perinatal Mental Health Nurse at Clinical Nurse Specialist level.

All 6 consultant posts have been approved by the Consultants Applications Appointments Committee (CAAC).

- 4 of the 6 consultants are now in place: National Maternity Hospital and University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL), CUMH and the Rotunda Hospital. The Coombe Hospital consultant post was advertised and the successful candidate is due to start in September 2019.
- One consultant who was successful in a recent Public Appointments Service (PAS) Perinatal Psychiatry post to be based in Galway University Hospital (GUH) and it is planned that they will start in the near future.

2) 2018 FUNDING: €2 Million

Following Minister Daly's commitment to allocate €2 million for the Model of Care (MOC) at its launch in November 2017, the MOC Programme Manager and Clinical Lead asked each hub site to prioritise the perinatal posts it wished to recruit first. This exercise was completed in January 2018.

As each consultant is recruited, the funding for the additional team posts is mobilised and recruitment initiated. This has occurred for five Hospitals with recruitment now taking place. In the remaining hub (Galway University Hospital) this is on hold until a start date for the consultant is decided. There are however specific panels in place to fill posts when the consultant is in place.

The current recruitment process is having an impact on the timeline in which posts can be recruited as derogation orders signed at national level are required in order for posts to be released. This is evident in CUMH where the service is awaiting derogation for three MDT posts from 2018 funding; these are an NCHD, Administrator and the Mental Health Social Worker.

Mental Health Midwives: 16 posts were funded by the NWIHP. 4 have taken up post and 7 are caught in the new recruitment process. A further 4 are awaiting derogation so that recruitment can recommence.

2019: FUNDING REQUESTED

I. 6 Hub Sites as outlined in the MOC

The funding allocated to date, when received, will ensure there are 6 multidisciplinary Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Teams in place, one per Hospital Group, with the exception of the occupational therapists and 1 senior psychology post. An additional €600,000 was sought and allocated in 2019 for this purpose. This funding however has not yet been released by DOH and therefore these posts have not commenced the recruitment process.

II. National Mother and Baby Unit

The MOC recommends one purpose built 6-10 bedded unit nationally with the physical capacity to expand to 10 beds if necessary. It further recommends this be based within the Department of Psychiatry (Elm Mount Unit), St Vincent's University Hospital campus. A number of meetings have been held to date to progress this and it will require ring-fenced capital investment.

2020 FUNDING

Funding from 2020 onwards will be a combination of capital funding for the unit and the funding for its staffing. Additional funding will be sought for the GUH consultant post and for additional HST NCHD posts.

The feasibility study should clarify the cost of the building and when it should be delivered. The staffing required for the MBU unit is listed in the MOC. Its cost is estimated at approximately €2 million.

Yours sincerely,



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