



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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Monday, 08 July 2019

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett TD
Dail Eireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

PQ27022/19: - To ask the Minister for Health the mental health services available to persons via the HSE; the emergency services available to persons experiencing mental health crisis; the way in which to access services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett

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.

Service Range

The HSE provides mental health services which are available in all parts of the state. Mental health services provided include community based mental health teams (Child and Adolescent Mental Health, General Adult, MHID and Psychiatry of Old Age etc.), day hospitals, acute inpatient units, out-patient clinics, continuing care settings and community residential services as well as the National Forensic Mental Health Service. Within the main specialties, certain sub-specialities including rehabilitation and recovery, liaison psychiatry, and perinatal psychiatry are provided.

Access and Emergency Care

Primary care services are usually the first point of contact for individuals when mental health problems initially present. Primary Care refers to health care delivered in local communities by GPs, Public Health Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers and others in non-specialist settings. The first point of contact for professional support will be to the primary care system directly via a GP or other health service professional. Primary Care clinicians can refer to Specialist Mental health Services as and where necessary.

Where an individual presents in a crisis at an Emergency Department, a psychiatric assessment is offered and is available 24/7 as recommended in *A Vision for Change*.

In addition the HSE have recently developed a model for the provision of enhanced 7 day services in all sector areas in Ireland. In 2017 approximately 60% of the country was already providing weekend services. Since then considerable work has been done to assign resources to those remaining areas which were without weekend services to ensure that all known service users have access to a 7 day Community Mental Health

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Services. 48 clinical posts were approved to augment existing resources, and enable those areas to provide a 7 day service. To date recruitment is complete for 36 of the 48 vacancies. A further 8 posts have been accepted.

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