



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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1st May 2019

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

PQ 11890/19: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to create a viable assessment and treatment pathway for adults with ADHD here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -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.

With response to the PQ outlined above, it might be helpful to explain that the primary reason a Clinical Programme for Adults with ADHD is being developed in the HSE is because of the lack of services.

This is a common theme in most European countries, not just Ireland. However HSE Mental Health Services have prioritised the development of a Model of Care for evidenced based services nationally. This was done in response to the now well established facts that:

1. ADHD persists in whole or part into adulthood in 60% of children with ADHD
2. It can have significantly adverse impact on the person's life

This does mean that in the meantime it can be difficult to get advice or help. It is suggested that nevertheless people do ask their GPs to refer them to their local mental health service. The services have been asked to refer to NICE guidelines 2013, 2018 on the assessment and management of children, adolescents and adults with ADHD for guidance.

This is in place while the roll out of the Model continues in line with PFG funding available.

The HSE appointed a Clinical Lead and Programme Manager for this National Clinical Programme who worked with a multidisciplinary working group with service user input from HADD Ireland to draw up a Model of Care. A draft was completed in February 2018. A Clinical Advisory Group was then established by the College of Psychiatry of Ireland to consider the draft. Following some changes, the College has now approved the Model of Care and it is awaiting final ratification by the HSE.

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The DOH allocated €1m in funding for this development in 2017 and €0.3m in 2019 and this is being used to recruit the staff for three demonstration sites, each with a defined catchment area. In line with the Colleges recommendation, data will be collected from there to evaluate the operation of the Model of Care. However, no further services can be developed unless funding is provided for this purpose. Each site has a team of:

- 1 Consultant
- 1 Administrator
- 1 CNS MH
- 1 Psychologist
- 1 Occupational Therapist.

Each team costs €0.5m and an additional of sites will be required to provide national coverage (€4.5m).

The ADHD in Adults National Clinical Programme includes a clear pathway for both referral to ADHD services and the assessment process to be undertaken. It also includes recommendations on the provision of a multi-modal treatment based on the identification of each individual's needs.

This clinical pathway will be used in each of the three demonstration sites and evaluated through the data collection process.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services