



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
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Mental Health Service  
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9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Deputy Róisín Shortall TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

PQ 12865/19  
Question: To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to address the issue of dual diagnosis (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Details  
Supplied: whereby the way in which mental health and addiction services are organised works against the best interests of people with a dual diagnosis

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

The HSE is extremely keen to develop a model of care for dual diagnosis that it is responsive to the needs of patients presenting to health services. There is currently a draft Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis, which requires further development. This model of care will apply to one of the most challenging areas of health service provision which is the area of integrated service provision across both hospital and community settings. The model of care must ensure that our health system is responsive to patients who may present to many different parts of the health service. As acknowledged in this question the national clinical lead post is currently vacant and unfortunately a recent recruitment campaign did not yield a successful candidate.

The matter of how to continue to develop the programme in the absence of a clinical lead is currently under consideration and the necessary discussions will take account of the need for an integrated response which is informed by hospital and community settings as well as the work which is on-going in the voluntary sector around homelessness, substance misuse etc.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Building a Better Health Service**

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

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services

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