

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20. T 01 6207304 R: <u>Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie</u>

> Mental Health Service St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20 Tel: 01-6207304 Email: <u>sinead.reynolds@hse.ie</u>

28<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Deputy Tom Neville TD Dail Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street Dublin 2.

PQ 22300/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation by the HSE of a dual diagnosis strategy for patients with addiction and underlying mental health challenges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Tom Neville

Dear Deputy Neville,

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 too many different parts of the health service. 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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Dr Sinead Reynolds General Manager Mental Health Services

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