



12th August 2020

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 17856/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the advances made in the development of public psychology services in primary care since the adoption of Sláintecare; the cost of additional expansion or advances; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 17857/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the additional number of assistant and child psychologists provided as part of public psychology services since the publication of Sláintecare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Slaintecare Report 2017 recognised the importance of developing primary care services. Specifically, the committee on The future of Healthcare recommended the development of public psychology services at primary care level. In the 2017 NSP funding was provided for a two-year pilot, formally introducing the grade Asst. Psychologist and 20 staff grade psychologist to enhance psychology services in Primary Care for children and adolescents.

The HSE received funding for 20 Staff Grade Psychologists and 114 Assistant Psychologists in 2016 Service Plan (through mental health).

Funding was also provided towards the evaluation of the Assistant Psychology initiative each year for both Training (€288K) and Evaluation through UL (€102K)

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations