



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
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14th August 2020,
Deputy Martin Browne ,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ number:18700/20

To ask the Minister for Health the progress made by the HSE National Clinical Programme for assessing and managing patients that have co-morbid mental illness and substance misuse issues dual diagnosis; if a comprehensive model of care has been developed; and the way in which the model of care has been introduced to those that need it.

Dear Deputy Browne,

To date, the National Clinical Programme for Dual Diagnosis has progressed to the stage that there is a draft Model of Care in place which takes account of service user views, and describes the clinical pathway for patients with substance misuse and significant (moderate to severe) mental illness, including connectivity with primary care substance misuse services, community mental health service and acute services. This has been informed by international best practice and the experience of the National Working Group. The Health Research Board also produced the 'Realist Review' looking at the evidence base around Dual Diagnosis interventions.

In the absence of a Clinical Lead currently, both Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain – the National Lead for Integrated Care and Dr Amir Niazi – the National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health are keen to maintain progress and to continue development, and have been working closely with Dr Eamon Keenan – National Clinical Lead for the Drugs Strategy and Social Inclusion – to ensure that a comprehensive approach is taken to the care of those with Dual Diagnosis, bearing in mind that they can present to any part of the health service.

HSE Mental Health Services are keen that the approach to service delivery is coherent with Sláintecare in that it is integrated across the many interfaces where people can present and is oriented towards service users, families and communities. Service user and family member representation from the Dual Diagnosis population continues to be essential to the development of Dual Diagnosis services. Since the development of the draft Model of Care, we have met with relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue of Dual Diagnosis and these included service representative group from the Addiction side and family members directly affected by the issue.

As we emerge from the extraordinary situation created by the COVID19 pandemic, the HSE remains acutely aware of the issue of Dual Diagnosis and indeed the impact that this may have had on individuals who experience both mental health and substance misuse issues. During the crisis, the HSE Addiction service, the HSE Mental Health service and Mental Health Ireland worked on developing a resource for people impacted by Dual Diagnosis. This resource is available on drugs.ie and provides advice for people in relation to looking after



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their Mental Health during the crisis including information about accessing Mental Health and Addiction services http://www.drugs.ie/resources/covid/dual_diagnosis/.

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