



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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20th August 2020,
Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 20676/20

To ask the Minister for Health the status of progress on developing a no wrong door policy to address dual diagnosis in mental health and the funding provided and need in future for services to adapt.

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

Currently there is a dedicated service to deal with comorbid addiction and mental health issues in Dublin based at Pearse Street (Drug Treatment Centre Board). In other areas Mental Health Services provide support to issues of Mental Health secondary to addiction issues and Primary Care and Social Care are providing addiction services.

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



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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](http://www.drugs.ie/resources/covid/dual_diagnosis/) and provides advice for people in relation to looking after their Mental Health during the crisis including information about accessing Mental Health and Addiction services http://www.drugs.ie/resources/covid/dual_diagnosis/

At present funding is available to all the existing services. Once the Clinical Programme on Dual Diagnosis is finalized we will be seeking funding for this additional resource. We can keep you updated with the progress made with the fund.

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

Yours sincerely

Dr Amir Niazi – NCAGL Mental Health