



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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9<sup>TH</sup> July 2020,

**Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number: 11990/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to establish specialist mental health and deafness services such as those in place in many other countries such as the USA and the UK; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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.

HSE Mental Health Service is available to deaf adults through the local community mental health teams by way of referral from the relevant GPs. If there is a concern for the mental health of any person out of hours they can also attend the local Emergency Department where they can be seen, assessed and the appropriate referral made. This is the case for all service users.

With regard to a National Mental Health Secondary Service for Deaf Adults, following a Governance and Financial Review in 2014/2015 of CHIME it was recommended that a service review should also take place. A review group was established and based on its findings the HSE and CHIME agreed that the governance for the service for deaf adults would transfer to the HSE.

This new national service will be a tertiary referral community service for severely deaf people who use either Irish sign language or culturally deaf and will be based on a hub and spoke model. A consultant has been appointed and is carrying out clinical duties within Dublin North City Mental Health Services.

This community service for severely deaf people who use either Irish sign language or culturally deaf was proposed to be located in the Deaf Ear Village in Cabra Dublin 7. Unfortunately due to a fire on the premises in quarter four 2019 this delayed the repurposing of accommodation.

In parallel there has been challenges in successfully recruiting nurses which is an integral part in commencing this service.



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- I can confirm that in August 2018 a campaign was held for three clinical nurse specialist positions for this service, three applicants were interviewed and all successful at interview. Unfortunately, all three candidates declined the posts when offered.
- The posts were subsequently offered out to the National clinical nurse specialist panel and again no one expressed an interest in the posts.

It is proposed to shortly progress another campaign, hopefully this new campaign will be successful in attracting successful candidates.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services