



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy  
Services for Older People  
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17th November 2020

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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

***PQ Ref: 36320/20***

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of dementia advisers that will be recruited in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

The Dementia Advisor service is a community-based early intervention service primarily for people living with dementia and for their families. The role of the Dementia Adviser (DA) is to provide a locally based, individualised, information, signposting, and emotional support service to people who are concerned about their cognitive health and/or have a diagnosis of dementia and for their families and friends, at all stages of their journey, from diagnosis through to end-of-life.

The HSE funds the Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Dementia Adviser Service (DAS) through a Service Level Agreement. There are currently eight DA's with an additional ten additional advisers and national co ordinator for the service approved in Budget 2020. The posts will be recruited by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) funded through a Service Level Agreement with the HSE and overseen jointly by the HSE and ASI. Recruitment for the new posts has commenced and will result in national coverage of the Dementia Advisor service in 2021.

An independent evaluation of the DA service (2018) provides evidence of a need for its expansion. This demand is influenced by increases in the number of people living with dementia (currently 64,000 people) and earlier diagnosis. In addition, the evaluation recommends development of the service to achieve national coverage. The National Dementia Office (NDO) and the Alzheimer's Society (ASI) will utilise the recommendations from the external evaluation of the Dementia Advisers role to inform new service development.

The dementia adviser service will integrate with existing and developing services including memory

technology resource rooms, memory assessment and primary care services providing a seamless pathway of care. The location of the new posts will be aligned to existing and developing integrated dementia services across the Community Health Networks (CHNs) and Hospitals Groups and will be allocated, linked to the current estimated populations of people with dementia and service need.

The HSE National Dementia Office is working with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland to support and enhance further integration of the Dementia Adviser service within existing HSE and community providing a seamless pathway of care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A.N.D.', is positioned above a horizontal line.

**A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy**