



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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23rd December 2020
Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ 38938/20

To ask the Minister for Health the amount allocated for clinical programmes on eating disorders in 2018, 2019 and 2020; if the funds have been released by the HSE; and the amount spent in the same period in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

The HSE approved the Eating Disorder Model of Care (MOC) in January 2018. The MOC is the blue print for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

The clinical program aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with agreed Model of Care 2018 and approved implementation plan over a 5 year period starting in 2018. All teams are MDT and consultant led. Clinicians must be of senior grade with interest in this clinical speciality.

Since 2018 €3.1 million has been made available for Eating Disorder Services through program for government funding. Of that €138k has been invested to date in permanent Eating Disorder Specialist Posts. In 2020, some development funding was used to meet unfunded cost growth in mental health services nationally. Much of this unfunded cost growth relates to agency staffing (both medical and nursing) where it hasn't been possible to recruit and also to specialist placements for those with complex mental health needs including eating disorders. This was done in consultation with the Department of Health. Therefore planned developments of eating disorder services had to be temporarily paused.

This situation has now been rectified so that in 2021 €3.94 million is now available to be invested in specialist Eating Disorder services. The HSE plans to recruit all of these posts in 2021. Currently no eating disorder posts are paused due to funding issues.



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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