



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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1st October 2020,
Deputy David Cullinane ,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ number 21411/20

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for a 10% increase in homeless mental healthcare services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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, health services for the homeless population are delivered by multiple providers including Statutory Services, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and charitable organisations. In addition to local Community Mental Health Teams and Acute Mental Health Units, HSE Mental Health Services have established Specialist Homeless Mental Health Teams, dedicated to meet the mental health needs of the homeless population. There are two Specialist Homeless Mental Health Teams located in Dublin; the Assertive Community Care Evaluation Service (ACCES Team) and the Programme for the Homeless, The Adult Homeless Integrated Team is located in Cork and a dedicated mental health homeless team is currently being developed in Kerry. For service users who present with substance misuse issues, Mental Health Services operate a shared care approach with the Addiction Services.

In addition, HSE Homeless Multidisciplinary Teams are established in each Community Health Organisation, these teams comprising of nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, mental health and addiction workers, work to ensure people who are homeless are linked with appropriate health and social care services.

Counselling is available to homeless persons through a national service, Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC). Counselling is also available through the HSE Addiction Services and by HSE funded Non Government Organisations (NGOs) such as the Dublin Simon Community Sure Steps Counselling service and Merchants Quay Ireland. In 2018 the National Office of Suicide Prevention (NOSP) provided additional funding to Dublin Simon Community Sure Steps Counselling service for a homeless specific Out of Hours Counselling Service.

Primary Care Open Access services are also delivered through HSE funded Non Government Organisations (NGOs) (e.g Merchants Quay Ireland and the Capuchin Day Centre) and Primary Care In reach Teams (e.g Safetynet) providing G.P and Nursing clinics onsite in emergency accommodations which has been expanded with additional mental health nursing clinics.



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Currently there are no plans to increase homeless mental health care by 10%. Efforts were made the contact Deputy Cullinane to query the amount of a 10% increase in homeless mental healthcare.

The Winter Plan 2020 has allocated 5.5 million towards homeless services, including additional funding for NGO partners and additional funding for in-reach clinical sessions in homeless hostels.

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