



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

22nd December 2021

**PQ Number: 62727/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the strategies in place to support persons with intellectual disabilities to access mental health supports if needed - Violet-Anne Wynne**

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Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

The mild mental health needs of adults and children with intellectual disabilities are generally best met in services such as HSE Primary Care and HSE Disability services. However, people may have moderate or severe mental health difficulties in addition to their intellectual disability, which can mean their treatment needs are more complex. The development of mental health intellectual disability (MHID) teams, to provide population-wide coverage and ensure fair and equal access to mental healthcare for people of all ages with an intellectual disability is currently ongoing. Disability services and primary care services can refer people with mental health difficulties to mental health services.

In 2017, the HSE's national mental health service, in co-operation with social care services, initiated a new service improvement programme, to develop both adult and CAMHS MHID services nationally, and to further the operationalisation of A Vision for Change for this specialty. Increased Government investment in mental health has enabled the development of a person-centred MHID and CAMHS ID model of care, to ensure consistent service delivery. The MHID model of care is being adopted nationally and will augment existing mental health teams, as needed. The CAMHS ID model of care is currently under development. Since 2012, the Government has added €315 million to the mental health budget. This is an increase of 45% over this time. This investment has enabled the enhancement of specialist mental health services in areas such as MHID, CAMHS ID, eating disorders and ADHD.

Sharing the Vision also recommends the development of acute beds and day hospital services for MHID treatment. 10 beds have been specifically dedicated for MHID in the new 170-bed state-of-the-art complex in Portrane, which will replace the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum. The new facility will modernise the forensic mental health service in Ireland. The complex will also contain a 10 bedroom forensic child and adolescent mental health unit and a 30 bedroom intensive care rehabilitation unit will be co-located

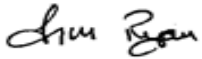
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on the site. CAMHS-ID dedicated beds are also being proposed in the new Children's Hospital. Investment in acute MHID services will continue to be prioritised and developed as part of the HSE MHID service improvement programme, in conjunction with HSE Social Care and Section 38 and 39 voluntary agencies. The development of innovative acute treatment services, including therapeutic respite for children with intellectual disabilities and significant mental health and behavioural support needs, will also be explored.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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**Jim Ryan**  
**Assistant National Director - Head of Operations**  
**National Mental Health Service**

