



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

25th February 2021

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan

Dail Eireann,

Dublin 2.

PQ 7746/21

To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which provision is being made to cater for mental health patients who may also have an addiction; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 our position.

Currently there is a dedicated service to deal with comorbid addiction and mental health issues in Dublin based at Pearse Street (Drug Treatment Centre Board). In other areas Mental Health Services provide support to issues of Mental Health secondary to addiction issues and Primary Care and Social Care are providing addiction services.

The National Clinical Programme for Dual Diagnosis has progressed to the stage that there is a draft Model of Care in place which takes account of service user views, and describes the clinical pathway for patients with substance misuse and significant (moderate to severe) mental illness, including connectivity with primary care substance misuse services, community mental health service and acute services. This has been informed by international best practice and the experience of the National Working Group. The Health Research Board also produced the 'Realist Review' looking at the evidence base around Dual Diagnosis interventions. In addition, the revised mental health policy *Sharing the Vision* recommends several actions around Dual Diagnosis that will be considered as part of the implementation process led by the work of the National Implementation Monitoring Group and HSE.

HSE Mental Health Services are keen that the approach to service delivery is coherent with Sláintecare in that it is integrated across the many interfaces where people can present and is oriented towards service users, families and communities. Service user and family member representation from the Dual Diagnosis population continues to be essential to the development of Dual Diagnosis services. Since the development of the draft Model of Care, we have met with relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue of Dual Diagnosis and these included service representative group from the Addiction side and family members directly affected by the issue.



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The HSE Addiction service, the HSE Mental Health service and Mental Health Ireland has worked on developing a resource for people impacted by Dual Diagnosis. This resource is available on [drugs.ie](http://www.drugs.ie) and provides advice for people in relation to looking after their Mental Health during the crisis including information about accessing Mental Health and Addiction services http://www.drugs.ie/resources/covid/dual_diagnosis/

€1m is allocated to Dual Diagnosis from PFG 2021 funding. This €1m is currently held by the DOH and it is anticipated that this funding will be issued to CHO's this year.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services