



Bainisteoir Ginearálta, Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte  
Teach Ben View, Bóthar an Chláir, Ballytivnan, Sligeach, F91 F6E4  
T 071 914 0396 R: [Teresa.dykes@hse.ie](mailto:Teresa.dykes@hse.ie),

General Manager, Mental Health Service  
Ben View House, Clarion Road, Ballytivnan, Sligo, F91 F6E4  
Tel: 071 914 0396 Email: [Teresa.dykes@hse.ie](mailto:Teresa.dykes@hse.ie)

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**

**Deputy Niamh Smyth  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2**

**RE: PQ55503/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of service in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Dear Deputy Smyth**

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above matter. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Question, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of the HSE.

I note the details you refer to in your representation relates to JIGSAW, I can now advise on the progress in respect of the development of a Youth Mental Health Service [ YMHS] in Cavan Monaghan.

Mental Health Services CHO 1, have completed the development of a framework to progress a YMHS for the CHO 1 area. This framework is titled "The Community Healthcare Organisation 1 [CHO1] Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework 2020-2023" [referred to as the "YMH Framework" hereafter]. Further this YMH Framework has been endorsed by the CHO1 Executive Management Team to underpin the development of community services for young people across the CHO 1 area.

The YMH Framework made a number of key recommendations including the establishment of an Early Intervention Youth Mental Service in Cavan Monaghan and Sligo Leitrim.

This recommendation was based on wide cross agency and community consultation, which identified the needs and gaps in service delivery for young people not reaching the threshold for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. A further recommendation of the YMH Framework is the facilitation of the development of a more streamlined co-ordinated system of supports for Children and Young People.

To advance the development of this important service an option appraisal was completed by Senior Management personnel from Mental Health, Health and Wellbeing and Primary Care, who identified models of Early Intervention Youth Mental Health currently in operation in Ireland namely Mindspace Mayo, Jigsaw and HSE governed services.

The following alternatives/options were appraised to inform next steps:

- 1) To seek an external provider through a tendering process – Jigsaw services nationally are operated under such a model.

- 2) To establish a HSE governed Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service. An overview of the options and the strengths and weaknesses of each is outlined in Appendix One.

The conclusion of the appraisal was that a tendering process for an external provider would be a lengthy process with service opening at the earliest in 18 months. With HSE senior management support and cross divisional service buy in locally, it was deemed possible that a HSE governed service could be established earlier. Under the clinical governance of the Senior Psychologist, this service would be developed utilising a Hub and Spoke approach with interventions offered in locations/partner agency accommodation within the local communities of the young person and their families.

The YMH Framework, referencing Sharing the Vision, emphasises the need to strengthen the wider interface with external and internal services/systems. In Cavan Monaghan and Sligo Leitrim an interagency group has been established and terms of reference agreed. To date in excess of 10 consultations in each area have been held with a wide stakeholder group comprised of community and voluntary providers, HSE Senior Management and other statutory agencies including Tusla, Local Authorities. Young people also participated in the initial consultation on the framework and their feedback has been since incorporated into the document.

### **Current Status**

- Recruitment has commenced and will conclude shortly for the following
  - 1 WTE x Senior Clinical Psychologist
  - 1 WTE x Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - 1 WTE x Grade IV Administration Support
- A Job description for a Youth Mental Health Support Worker has been finalised, with an Expression of interest advertised on Active Link to partner with an agency to recruit and co-manage the Youth Mental Health and Support Worker.
- Agencies have been asked to express in interest to temporarily host the EIYMHS until the completion of the Peace Building in Monaghan town. Accommodation is being viewed this week with the final decision of the service location agreed by Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Team Senior Managers at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- The framework for the operation of the service including referral pathways, criteria for access, governance etc is under development through the Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service.
- It is proposed that the Cavan Monaghan Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service will commence receiving referrals in January 2022
- The YMH Framework, referencing Sharing the Vision, emphasises the need to strengthen the wider interface with external and internal services/systems. In Cavan Monaghan and Sligo Leitrim an interagency group has been established and terms of reference agreed. To date in excess of 10 consultations in each area have been held with a wide stakeholder group comprised of community and voluntary providers, HSE Senior Management and other statutory agencies including Tusla, Local Authorities. Young people also participated in the initial consultation on the framework and their feedback has been since incorporated into the document.

Mental Health Services in CHO1 continue to work closely with Jigsaw and other agencies across CHO1 and nationally to support Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing.

If you have any further queries on this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Dykes', written in a cursive style.

**Teresa Dykes**  
**General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services, CHO1.**