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**26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Deputy Brendan Smith  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2**

**RE: PQ 49973/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that sufficient resources and personnel are in place in 2022 to provide an improved level of mental health services in areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Dear Deputy Smith**

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above. 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;

Cavan Monaghan Mental Health service provides mental health services to the catchment population through the following structures:

- Cavan General Adult Community Mental Health Team;
- Monaghan General Adult Community Mental Health Team;
- Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service for the Elderly Community Mental Health Team;
- Cavan Monaghan Child & Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams X 3;
- Cavan Monaghan Louth Meath Mental Health Service for People with Intellectual Disability (Adult) Community Mental Health Team;
- Cavan Monaghan Community Rehabilitation and Recovery Community Mental Health Team;
- Liaison Psychiatry Team, Cavan General Hospital;

***Approved centres:***

- Acute Psychiatric Admission Unit, Cavan General Hospital;
- Blackwater House, St Davnets Campus, Rooskey, Monaghan.

At 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 the Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service 2021 budget allocation was €27,974,769, excluding additional costs incurred due to the Covid 19 pandemic and capital allocations. On the same date, Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service had spent a total of €627,000 on COVID-19 pandemic related costs.

Demand on mental health services varies over time due to changes in population, society, nature of presentations etc. The Covid 19 pandemic is projected to increase demand for psychological supports and secondary mental health services.

We are currently in the process of drafting a submission for additional resources, i.e. posts, to increase and enhance the multidisciplinary community mental health teams in order to increase Cavan Monaghan Mental Health service's capacity to meet changing demand on the service.

It should be noted that there are ongoing shortages of suitably trained and qualified staff available for recruitment, across all staff disciplines, nationally and internationally.

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.**