



17th September, 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ Ref: PQ41751/21

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of an additional dementia key worker.

Dementia is a life changing and limiting condition, having a significant impact on the individual and their families and/or carers. People can be supported to live well with dementia while maintaining the principles of personhood which are recognition, respect and trust (Kitwood, 1997). Although dementia is not a normal part of the ageing process, age is the main risk factor.

There is no nationally approved dementia key worker role. However there are a number of existing roles that can fulfil the remit of a key worker including co-ordinating patient's care and promoting continuity and ensuring that the patient knows who to access for information and advice.

The Dementia Adviser service is a community-based early intervention service primarily for people living with dementia and for their families. The role of the Dementia Adviser (DA) is to provide a locally based, individualised, information, signposting, and emotional support service to people who are concerned about their cognitive health and/or have a diagnosis of dementia and for their families and friends, at all stages of their journey, from diagnosis through to end-of-life.

Following an independent evaluation of the Dementia Adviser service in 2018 (Coffey et al, 2018), the national service has grown from 8 Dementia Advisers to 28, with final recruitment for posts currently taking place. In addition to the 28 Dementia Advisers provided through the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and funded by the HSE, a National Coordinator has also been appointed.

The Health Service Executive currently funds the National Dementia Adviser Service at a cost of €1,504,657 in 2021. The cost for one dementia adviser (pay and non-pay costs) is €59,223.

In addition, there are a number of Clinical Nurse Specialist in Dementia (CNSp). The CNSp in Dementia can be located in a hospital, community and/or outpatient setting. The underlying theory for caring for people with dementia is one of person centeredness emphasising partnership with people with dementia, their families and/or carers to promote strengths, independence and create resilience. The

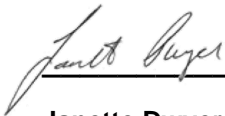
CNSp Dementia supports and promotes this theory within the multi-disciplinary team (MDT). They work closely with medical, health and social care professionals, voluntary organisations etc. and may make alterations in prescribed clinical and person centred options alongside agreed pathways, policies, procedures and protocol driven guidelines. Co-ordination of investigations, treatment therapies and patient follow-up is an aspect of their care role.

The salary scale for the post is:

€50,912– €51,756 – €52,468 – €53,633 – €54,920 – €56,183 – €57,446– €58,868 – €60,190

In addition, to existing CNSp in Dementia, six CNSp in Dementia acute care were funded under the National Service Plan 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Janette Dwyer', is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**Janette Dwyer,
Assistant National Director,
Change and Innovation, Services for Older People & Dementia Care,**