



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

22nd September 2021

PQ Number: 41921/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the amount that was spent in 2020 to expand the provision of talking therapy in Ireland; his plans to continue to increase access to talking therapies; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 current financial systems in the HSE do not enable the extraction of the information set in the manner requested.

The HSE provides a wide range of talking therapies across the health service and often within teams that are not solely focused on the provision of talking therapies such as general adult community mental health teams. In addition to therapies offered through specialist mental health services, the HSE also provides interventions at Primary Care level, including Primary Care Psychology services, Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) and the National Counselling Service. Complementing services provided by directly employed staff, the HSE funds a number of partner organisations to deliver talking therapies.

The 'Model of Care for Adults Accessing Talking Therapies while Attending Specialist Mental Health Services' (MoC) has been developed in accordance with the HSE's National Framework for developing Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines. It has been put together in close collaboration with clinicians, service users and family members with experience of delivering or accessing talking therapy interventions. Co-production, inclusivity and transparency have been central to the entire process, as have been a continuing focus on how talking therapies may best support the recovery journey of those who need our specialist mental health services.

A National Implementation Project Steering Group and Project Working Group have been convened to develop national implementation guidelines for the Model of Care and to support and oversee local CHO plans in each pilot site. Selected Community Healthcare Organisation's are actively progressing the



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recruitment of posts for both a Mini-Hub and selected CMHTs in their area. Once recruited staff will commence operating the MoC.

Further information can be found via the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/news/talking-therapies-launch.html>

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

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services