



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

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Deputy Cormac Devlin.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21st December 2022

**PQ Number: 62214/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the main initiatives that he has taken to develop and expand mental health services since 27 June 2020; the additional funding provided in successive budgets; his plans for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Cormac Devlin**

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Dear Deputy Devlin,

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.

Since 2012, the mental health budget has grown by €452m of which €325m relates to development funding for priority service enhancements. These targeted investments have been directed by national mental health policy as outlined in Vision for Change (2007), Connecting for Life (2015), Sharing the Vision (2020) and in line with the broader Sláintecare reform programme.

The continued development of Mental Health Services has been aimed at:

- Modernising Mental Health Services that historically were centred on institutional care by building our workforce and investing in fit for purpose infrastructure
- Promoting positive mental health at all levels of society, intervening early when problems develop, and providing accessible, comprehensive and community-based Mental Health Services for those who need them
- Taking a person-centred approach with a focus on enabling and supporting the recovery journey of each individual, based on clinical advice and best practice, as well as lived experience

The National Service Plan (NSP) for 2023 has yet to be finalised therefore the HSE is not in a position at this time to respond fully to the Deputy's question. However, the table below outlines the movement in the Mental Health funding since 2012 as per the agreed NSP each year.



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Allocation of Programme for Government Funding 2012 to 2022												
Funding Use	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Service Staff for Community Teams, Specialist services and supports	24.5	31.1	20.0	15.8	3.8	7.9	8.1	3.9				115.0
Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC)	5.0	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	0.5				8.0
National Office for Suicide Prevention & CFL	3.0	1.0	-	2.8	-	-	1.0	0.3		0.1		8.2
In Patient Capacity/Placements	-	-	-	6.3	9.0	4.2	4.6	8.7		7.7	5.0	45.4
Jigsaw & Limerick Youth Service & SHIP Counselling	-	-	-	3.2	5.3	-	-	0.6				9.1
Genio & Misc	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		0.3	0.2	2.6
Community Nurse Allowances	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	-	-				1.8
Advancing Recovery & Service User Engagement	-	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	0.5	0.1		0.9	2.3	5.8
Peer support workers & CHO service user engagement leads	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	0.7		0.3	0.4	3.4
Information Systems/ Digital Projects	-	0.4	-	1.0	2.5	-	-	3.0				6.9
Clinical Programs - Self Harm	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.6			0.3	1.8
Clinical Programs - Eating Disorders	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.6			1.2	6.8
Clinical Programs - Early Intervention in Psychosis	-	-	-	1.4	-	0.5	-	0.4		0.5	0.5	3.3
Clinical Programs - ADHD	-	-	-	-	0.3	1.0	-	0.3			1.1	2.7
Clinical Programs - Dual Diagnosis										1.0	0.8	1.8
MoC Specialist MH Services for Older People											0.6	0.6
CAMH's hubs										5.0	0.6	5.6
Crisis resolution services										2.6	1.4	4.0
Clonmel Crisis house										0.4	0.4	0.7
Sharing the Vision implementation										0.5	0.3	0.8
Expanding community services										3.5	4.0	7.5
Expansion CAMHS services											2.0	2.0
Perinatal	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	2.0	0.6				3.6
MHID	-	-	-	3.2	-	0.5	2.0	1.7		0.3		7.7
Specialist Rehabilitation Services	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	2.9	-				5.9
Homeless funding	-	-	-	-	2.0	1.0	0.5	-				3.5
7 Day services	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	1.0	-				5.5
Service improvement & Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-				1.0
Minor Works fund to meet compliance and safety requirements	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-				6.0
Clinical Psychology Training & Post/Under Graduate Nursing	-	-	-	-	0.7	2.5	2.4	1.5				7.1
Primary Care based Mental Health supports - Psychologists	-	-	-	-	5.0	-	-	-				5.0
Forensic Service	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.0	4.7	13.0		1.0	20.9
Drugs & Medicines increased costs for Improved Regimes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-				1.0
Youth Mental Health	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-				2.0
Advanced Nurse practitioners	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	1.0				3.0
Physical Health	-	-	-	0.4	-	0.5	-	-				0.9
Talk therapies	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	1.0	1.0				2.5
Rental/Upgrade costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5			2.0	3.5
Social Inclusion based Mental Health supports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4				2.4
Total	35.0	35.0	20.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	13.0	23.0	24.0	325.0



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### **Development Funding**

Development funding has been invested across a number of prioritised areas of service enhancements, including building capacity in CAMHS and youth mental health, the development of crisis resolution services and investing in mental health in primary care.

### **Service Improvements in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

#### **1. CAMHS Telehub Initiative 2021-2024**

National Mental Health have committed to a programme of work to inform the development of the CAMHS Telehealth Hub initiative on a phased basis, informed by testing and monitoring. This body of work includes:

- The development of a pilot Model of Care for CAMHS hubs (2022)
- Pilot testing and implementation of CAMHS hubs across a number of sites, incorporating a rural/urban mix (2022-2024)
- Monitoring and evaluation of pilot site implementation (2022-2024)
- Monitoring and evaluation of key outcomes for service users, families and carers

#### **2. CAMHS Operational Guideline (COG)**

In June 2019, the CAMHS COG was published following an extensive review and consultation process that took into consideration the views of service users, family members, front line staff and management working within HSE mental health services and in other organisations working with children and adolescents. This document follows from a review of the CAMHS Standard Operating Procedure (2015). The audit of compliance of CAMHS teams with operational guidelines (as announced by An Taoiseach on 27/01/22 in light of the Maskey Report), has commenced to include the design of a bespoke audit framework, a gap analysis of adherence to the COG, any regional or other factors impacting same, and conclusions on the requirement for targeted service improvement. In 2023, the HSE will continue to progress the full implementation of the Maskey Report in CAMHS in order to improve this vital service.

#### **3. Youth Mental Health Services**

The HSE has over a number of years invested in 'upstream' youth mental health services, including Jigsaw and other funded agencies in the community and voluntary sector who are providing enhanced services for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties who do not need to access specialist mental health services. Since 2015, the HSE has invested €9.1m development funding to support the establishment and operation of Jigsaw services with thirteen sites now in place.



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#### **4. Forensic CAMHS**

A new 10-bedded Forensic CAMHS unit has been completed in the NFMHS in Portrane. This new facility, when operational, will be the first of its kind within the state and will offer 'state of the art' secure care facilities for children and young people up to the age of 18.

#### **Crisis Resolution Services**

Under the HSE Corporate Plan 2020-2023, and in line with Recommendations 24 and 40 of *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* (2020), HSE Mental Health will develop, implement and evaluate a pilot model of crisis resolution services; incorporating crisis resolution teams and cafes to offer an alternative response to inpatient admission, when appropriate.

Crisis Resolution Services will form an integral part of the Service User journey, working in tandem with existing services to provide an integrated 24/7 multi-agency mental health crisis de-escalating service. HSE Mental Health has committed to a programme of work to inform the development of Crisis Resolution Services on a phased basis:

- The development of a pilot Model of Care for Crisis Resolution Services
- Pilot testing and implementation of Crisis Resolution Services across a number of sites, incorporating a rural/urban mix (2022-2024)
- Monitoring and evaluation of pilot site implementation (2022-2024)
- Monitoring and evaluation of key outcomes for service users, families and carers

A phased approach to the development of Crisis Resolution Services will provide the opportunity to test and learn across pilot sites, and provide the evidence required to inform service planning into the future.

#### **Development and advancement of Telehealth technologies**

The HSE is determined to fully utilising opportunities offered by telehealth technologies to mitigate recruitment challenges and to modernize the delivery of mental health care. The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the delivery of health services; both in terms of the provision of services and continuity of care. Given the emphasis placed on ensuring social distancing where possible in the community, and as part of efforts to reduce transmission of coronavirus to healthcare workers, solutions to allow clinical consultations take place remotely were required. In this context Attend Anywhere or Blue Eye, were utilized as an alternative modality.

#### **Primary Care Mental Health Services**

Significant work had been undertaken to develop Primary Care Psychology Services through investment in the Assistant Psychologist programme. In line with mental health policy and Sláintecare objectives, these



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initiatives have successfully facilitated access to services at the lowest level of complexity, ensuring effective use of community and in-patient specialist mental health services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**

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