



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,  
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Deputy Jim O Callaghan  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**PQ Number: 10224/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the initiatives he is taking to strengthen mental health services in 2022, especially CAMHS; the funding being provided for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Jim O'Callaghan**

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Dear Deputy O Callaghan,

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.

In 2022, total mental health funding amounts to €1,159m. 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 have been aimed at;

- Modernising Mental Health Services that historically were centred on institutionalised 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 table below outlines the movement in the Mental Health funding since 2012 as per the agreed National Service Plan 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>325.0</b>



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The table below provides the breakdown of the NSP 2022 new development funding. Mental Health received €24m under Programme for Government 2022 funding. As outlined in table 4 of the HSE National Service Plan, the full year cost of these initiatives amounts to €36.36m in 2023. None of the developments outlined in the table below, relate to the reclassification of historic development and all relate to new developments which will be progressed in 2022. It should be noted that the first elements of this funding were not drawn down until 1st January 2022 and subsequent budget drawdowns will occur during 2022 according as these posts are progressed.

<b>Mental Health - Developments NSP 2022</b>		<b>2022 cost</b>	<b>2023 FY cost</b>
	<b>WTE</b>	<b>€m</b>	<b>€m</b>
National Clinical Programme - Eating Disorders	25.6	1.15	2.3
National Clinical Programme - ADHD	17.5	1.13	1.8
National Clinical Programme – Early Intervention Psychosis	11.2	0.5	1.0
National Clinical Programme – Self Harm	6	0.32	0.42
National Clinical Programme – Dual Diagnosis	14	0.75	1
MoC Specialist MH Services for Older People	10.5	0.56	1.13
CAMHS Hubs	9	0.64	1.15
Sharing the Vision Implementation	2	0.25	0.25
Clonmel Crisis House	6	0.35	0.35
Crisis Resolution Services	27	1.43	2.85
Expanding community services	88.7	4	8
Expansion CAMHS services	48.4	2	4
Individual Placement Supports	0	1.25	1.25
Recovery Colleges	5	1.05	1.05
Peer Support	13	0.4	0.6
CAMS training (suicide prevention)	0	0.22	0.22
NFMHS - removal of Night-time confinement	30	1	2
Private Placements	0	4	5
Mental Health Winter plan - Eating Disorder training	0	0.15	0.15
Mental Health Winter plan - Placements	0	0.85	0.85
Rent and costs	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>37.4</b>



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In addition, following an announcement by Minister Butler in December, a fund of €10m is currently being administered by Mental Health Ireland to provide once-off grants to voluntary and community organisations to provide additional mental health supports based on local need across the country.

### **CAMHS Services**

Development funding has been invested across a number of prioritised areas of service enhancements, including building capacity in CAMHS and youth mental health, and investing in mental health in primary care:

#### **Service Improvement in CAMHS: 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 27/01/22), will be made against the CAMHS COG on the basis of a cross mapping with relevant recommendations in the Maskey Report

#### **CAMHS Connect Remote Hub (s)**

The HSE is determined to fully utilising opportunities offered by telehealth technologies to mitigate recruitment challenges and modernise delivery of mental health care. This will include piloting and expanding tele psychiatry programmes in Wicklow, Galway and Mayo. Through a remote hub, these service delivery models can help address recruitment gaps in geographical areas while at the same time providing an enhanced service user experience.

#### **Pathway for children with complex needs**

In order to ensure a person-centred pathway to meet the needs of children with a complex disability and their families, the HSE and TUSLA have agreed a revised Joint Working Protocol (2020) to promote best outcomes for children known to either or both agencies.



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### **Eating Disorder Services**

In Jan 2018, the HSE launched its Model of Care for Eating Disorders. This aims to establish 16 teams (8 Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and 8 Adult) across the country that will provide specialist eating disorder services serving populations of 500,000 and greater.

There are currently two Eating Disorder specialist community teams based in CAMHS, one in CHO4, (Cork & Kerry Regional Eating Disorder Service CAREDS, operational since May 2019) and the other based in CHO 7 (Linn Dara Community Eating Disorder Service LDCEDS). In late 2021, funding for 20 WTEs (1.7m full year costs) was released to commence recruitment of 3 new teams - CHO 2 CAMHS, CHO 4 and CHO 9 Adult services.

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the four CAMHS inpatient approved centres. There are currently 20 dedicated eating disorder beds across the four CAMHS units; Linn Dara, Dublin, St Vincent's in Dublin, Eist Linn in Cork and Merlin Park, Galway. Of the 20 ED beds nationally, Linn Dara and Merlin Park have 14 Specialist ED beds (SEDBs). As part of the new children's hospital development, there will be an additional eight specialist eating disorder beds as part of a new 20-bedded CAMHS in-patient approved centre.

Eating disorders are serious mental disorders with high levels of physical and psychological comorbidity, disability and mortality. Both Linn Dara and Merlin Park Approved Centres provide Level 4 care and treatment for children and adolescents. Level 4 is described in the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders, as the most intensive treatment setting.

### **Enhanced in-patient capacity**

There are currently 68 in-patient CAMHS beds (Linn Dara (24), Merlin Park (16), St Vincent's (12), and Eist Linn (16)). Significant investment into the creation of a dedicated high observation suite within the existing Eist Linn CAMHS in-patient unit was completed in 2020 and these beds are now operational. This facility provides much needed capacity for Eist Linn to have the capacity to assess, treat and manage difficult and challenging behaviours expressed as a result of their mental illness in young people, thereby significantly reducing the need to move such children outside of their catchment area to other units across the country.



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### **Forensic CAMHS**

A new 10-bedded Forensic CAMHS unit has now been completed within the NFMHS site 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 young people up to the age of 18.

### **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. Jigsaw offered 23,075 appointments to young people in 2020.

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

Significant work had been undertaken to develop Primary Care Psychology Services through investment in the Assistant Psychologist programme (€5m). In line with mental health policy and Sláintecare objectives, these 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. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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