



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Roisin Shortall.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

15th March 2022

PQ Number: 8231/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of expanding each of the National Clinical Programmes relating to disciplines (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter - Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide Related Ideation

Funding was approved to meet recommended staffing levels in the Model of Care of one Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) per 200 self-harm presentations per annum, equating to 44 posts. The programme is currently delivered in 25 of 26 Adult Emergency Departments (ED) that are open 24/7, and has recently been extended into the 3 Dublin pediatric hospitals. Based on the data received additional posts are requested in HSE estimates process annually.

The programme is currently rolling out Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) services regionally as described in the revised Model of Care (MOC) (2022). The MOC recommends one CNS/MH practitioner per 75,000 population and 0.2 Consultant Psychiatrist per 300,000. In 2021/22 HSE Winter Plan allocated funding for 6 CNS posts at an approximate cost of €450k. In total based on current population the SCAN programme requires 60 CNS/MH practitioner posts (€4.8m) and 15 x 0.2 WTE Consultant Psychiatrist (630K).

Capital costs: A suitable room for assessment is required in each emergency department and within primary care. Each room must be in line with agreed standards.

Training programme: There is a detailed evidence based training programme in place, which is delivered in-house by our skilled clinicians but also by external experts. A rolling training budget is required annually for nursing staff and NCHDs in training. Where possible the NCPShI partners with National Office for Suicide prevention to provide training.

National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders

The National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders Model of Care recommends 16 specialist community teams spanning the life cycle each with 13-14 WTEs to enable provision of specialist

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outpatient and day programme services per 500-600,000 population, at a cost of approximately €1.2m per team.

At the end of 2021, there were 3 Eating Disorders Specialist Teams in operation - 2 Eating Disorders CAMHS teams serving CHO4 and CHO7, and an adult team was based in CHO6. 3 additional teams were in the advanced stages of recruitment and set up. The DOH has committed annual funding in 2022 for further 3 teams.

Capital costs: Each team requires a team base to provide outpatient and day programmes. Each CHO has different access to suitable buildings that are centrally located within the region to serve the population. A high spec telehealth fit out is also required to allow for hybrid options. It is difficult to estimate this as each CHO requirements are different.

Training and supervision: There is a detailed evidence based training programme described in MOC. Training is delivered in-house by our skilled clinicians but also by external subject experts. A rolling training budget is required annually. Where possible training and education is delivered online to avail of international expertise.

Data: A data collection system that will track patients over time and demonstrate clinical outcomes in line with MOC is required as teams are expanded. It is difficult to estimate this cost and it will depend on market.

National Clinical Programme for Early Intervention in Psychosis

There are currently 5 Early Intervention in Psychosis (EIP) services in place across the HSE. All are at various stages of development and resourcing when compared with HSE EIP Model of Care. National Implementation of this clinical programme will require the development of >25 EIP services in Ireland at a total cost of approximately €50m.

Funding of €1.5m was initially provided for the development of 3 demonstration teams, with additional funding of €1m to be released in 2022 for an additional 11.2 posts across the 5 existing EIP teams.

National Clinical Programme for ADHD in Adults

The ADHD in Adults National Clinical Programme's Model of Care was launched on the 14th January, 2021. When fully implemented, 12 Adult ADHD Clinics will be established to provide assessment and multi-modal treatment in the CHOs in line with the Model of Care.

Up until 2022 the Programme was funded for 3 of the 12 Adult ADHD NCP sites (2.5 teams). The 2022 Estimates process provided funding for a further 3.5 Adult ADHD teams. A further 6 teams are required to have full national coverage including a team for the prison population in Dublin, at a cost of approximately €3m (costs are based on latest available pay scales but does not include estimated maternity cover for multidisciplinary teams). Each team consists of a Consultant Psychiatrist, Senior Psychologist, Senior Occupational Therapist, CNSMH and an Administrator.

It is essential that the services are locally available to enable easy access geographically to a skilled response, which is timely for patients and their families. The National Clinical Programmes – Mental Health have developed national models of care where services have been designed specifically to meet these criteria.

The provision of funding for teams, specific training needs, bespoke data systems and appropriate accommodation to develop services nationally is essential to meet the needs of patients and their families.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
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Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive