



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations,
Mental Health Service, St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Paul Donnelly,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

22nd July 2022

PQ Number: 37364/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the minimum staffing requirements for a liaison psychiatrist as outlined in a Vision for Change; and the current level of staffing for same - Paul Donnelly

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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.

While 'A Vision for Change' (2006) recommended specific staffing levels across a range of disciplines and areas of work, including the recommendation to increase to 13 the number of liaison psychiatry teams, the current mental health policy, 'Sharing the Vision', is not prescriptive in this regard but focuses instead on the further development of models of care in mental health service delivery.

Included in this approach is the commitment to develop a Liaison Mental Health Model of Care in 2022. Progress with regard to this will be reported on a quarterly basis to the independently chaired National Implementation Monitoring Committee with reference to Recommendation 60 which states: "Continued expansion of liaison mental health services for all age groups should take place in the context of an integrated Liaison Mental Health Model of Care." This work and the roll-out of additional liaison mental health services will be informed by a review of liaison mental health services in Ireland which was published in November 2021.

(<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2021.748224/full>)

With a focus on integrated care and putting service users at the centre of service development, liaison mental health services will be complemented by related recommendations in 'Sharing the Vision', including Recommendation 17 which addresses the use of the mental health consultation / liaison model to ensure improved linkages between primary care and secondary mental health services.

I wish to advise that work to develop a Liaison Psychiatry Model of Care in collaboration with the Faculty of Liaison Psychiatry at the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is ongoing. Currently, the HSE does not have the detail requested until the model of care for liaison mental health services is published.

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

Yours sincerely,



Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
Mental Health Services