



29th July, 2022,

Deputy Willie O'Dea
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 37466/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of integrated care programme for older persons teams that are now in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The National Integrated Care Programme, Older Persons (NICP OP) worked with the DoH (Slaintecare Office) and Community Strategy in addressing Work-stream 1 of the Slaintecare Action Plan (DoH 2019) to describe a new model of integrated community care. Existing work in NICP OP pioneer sites (www.icpop.org) had established an integrated care model. This engagement, accelerated by COVID 19, resulted in investment in scaling up the initial work undertaken by NICP OP to be funded through the establishment of the Enhanced Community Care Programme in 2020/21. The scale up will establish 30 Community Specialist Older Person Teams across 96 Community Health Networks, building on the existing pioneer work as well as enhancing the capacity of acute hospitals with specialist staff who assess older people in the Emergency Department (front Door Frailty Teams).

A total of 477 WTE are being recruited to these posts. This resource will be combined with existing resource. A core Community Specialist Team Older Persons consists of 12.5 WTE.

Currently, in relation to NICP OP there 58% of staff are onboarded or at advanced stage of recruitment, and 59% for consultants. Based on current projections it is anticipate that all 30 teams will be viable by Q3 2022.

Regards,

PP Denise Tighe,
On behalf of,

Janette Dwyer,
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation