



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations,
Mental Health Service, St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

6th April 2022

PQ Number: 11147/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the recommendation in A Vision For Change to increase the nine liaison mental health service teams to 13 given Sharing the Vision recommended more; the current status of the shortfall; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 and this has now been drafted for clinical review. 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.

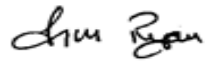
The 'Sharing the Vision' Implementation Plan for 2022-2024 was launched in Q1 of 2022 and quarterly reports on progress are being published and are available on the Department of Health website.

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

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Yours sincerely,



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