



16th March 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 13278/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinical specialist teams for older persons that have been established; the current staffing complement for each team; the number of vacancies in each team, by team; 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.

A Front Door Frailty Team consists of 6 WTE. A breakdown of the recruitment status on 23.2.22 is outlined on **appendix 1**.

At present there are 50% (15/30) Community specialist Older Person Teams operational, i.e. offering 'viable' service as a result of a core team of health and social care professionals, a clinical lead and manager is in situ. At present 96% (30) team operational leads are in place, establishing team structures, expediting recruitment and developing integrated linkages between hospital and community. 38% (12) of additional Consultant Geriatrician Posts are in place with an overall aggregate total of 40% of posts in situ. Based on current projections it is anticipated that all 30 teams will be viable by Q3 2022.

Regards,

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

Appendix 1

Total Posts	Allocated	On Boarded	At an advanced stage	Total On boarded + advanced	Comment
CHO1	51	23	8	31	
CHO2	61.2	8	8	16	
CHO3	36.5	18.5	0	18.5	
CHO4	65.5	25	14	39	
CHO5	63.5	13.5	14	27.5	
CHO6	37	4	8	12	
CHO7	52.5	14.5	4	18.5	
CHO8	55.5	4	0	4	Started in phase 2
CHO9	54.5	13	11	24	
Total	477.2	123.5	67	190.5	