



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy James Lawless.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

DATE: 8th April 2022

PQ Number: 16873/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HSE proposal to develop three pilot sites for specialist mental health services for older persons - James Lawless

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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.

It is widely recognised that mental health services for older people should develop in tandem with geriatric medicine services given the inseparable relationship between physical and mental health. In recognition of this, the subgroup for mental health was formed as part of the National Clinical Programme for Older People (NCPOP) in 2016.

The model of care was published in 2019 with broad recommendations relating to all aspects of specialist mental health care for older people and to encompass two of the core principles of Sláintecare, addressing equity between physical and mental healthcare and integration of service provision. In 2020 the Mental Health Commission reviewed all Psychiatry of Old Age services nationally and again highlighted the need for Acute Hospital and Nursing Home Liaison.

Older people make up 60% of patients in acute hospital care and the prevalence of mental disorders and dementia in the nursing home population is 7.5 times that of older people living in the community.

Following presentation by the Steering Group for Implementation of the Mental Health Model of Care and the Clinical Lead Professor Geraldine McCarthy, all Mental Health Services were invited to submit a business case for posts funded for 2022 to provide enhanced services and integrated care in 3 pilot sites (3.5 WTE maximum per service). It was essential for applicants to show evidence of integration and joint working in line with Sláintecare principles.

Pending the confirmation of appropriate Programme Management and Administrative resources which are required to support the National Lead in the implementation of the Model of Care, the Steering Group for the Implementation of the Mental Health Model of Care is currently reviewing applications against local activity data to finalise the selection criteria and reach a final decision in relation to the 3 pilot sites.

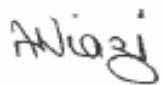
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This activity data includes obtaining an overview of all Psychiatry of Old Age services including a GAP analysis, KPI's, reviewing existing Liaison Psychiatry services and a regional view of levels of ambulance conveyances from the nursing homes to acute hospital, regional demand for home care packages and community beds, nursing home activity statistics (average length of stay, dependency levels, primary diagnosis, etc.) and the coding of services interventions during hospital admission. This work is ongoing.

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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