



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

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
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Deputy Claire Kerrane.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th April 2023

PQ Number: 16994/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason a role is advertised as a part-time position rather than a full-time position (details supplied), given the recognized importance of developing and reforming CAMHS and Youth Mental Health; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Claire Kerrane

Details Supplied: The new role of National Clinical Lead for CAMHS/Youth Mental Health is advertised as 2.5 days per week, yet had a comprehensive and broad definition. Considering the findings of the Maskey Report it could be expected that this position would allow an expert to be employed on a full-time basis to focus on the role.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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.

The new role of National Clinical Lead for Youth Mental Health will focus on the overall development and improvement of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in line with national policies including *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020)*, as well relevant legislative and regulatory requirements under the Health and Mental Health Acts.

The role will focus on responding to and addressing the immediate clinical and operational deficits as highlighted in the recent Maskey, Mental Health Commission (MHC) reports and other relevant reports/audits, as well as ongoing implementation of Models of Care and clinical guidelines, and the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019), which sets out best practice guideline for those requiring the support of CAMHS. It is important to note that this Post will work very closely with the additional Assistant National Director for Youth Mental Health currently being recruited and additional Service Improvement staff will also be assigned to the new Office to progress the ambitious plans to further improve Youth Mental Health care.



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Reporting to the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Mental Health, Dr. Amir Niazi, the role was advertised as 2.5 days a week (0.5 WTE) for a two-year period. As with all Clinical Lead roles, this is to ensure that the appointee continues with their clinical practice in order to maintain their professional registration.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ryan'.

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