



National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead Mental Health
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th August 2023

PQ Number: 26406/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the plans that are in place to increase access to early intervention psychosis services in 2023; 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.

The HSE National Clinical Programme for Early Intervention in Psychosis is a joint initiative between the HSE and the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, with the Model of Care launched on 12th June 2019. Each year in Ireland an estimated 1,500 people develop a psychotic disorder for the first time. National Implementation of this clinical programme will require the development of approximately 25 EIP services in Ireland in line with Sharing the Vision recommendation 52.

Total investment in EIP NCP to date is **3.68 Million since 2015**. This is an average annual investment over the past 9 years of €408,000/ year. There is no new funding for EIP team development in 2023. It is very hard to put a time frame for the full implementation of this programme due to annual funding process in HSE. It would be much easier to answer this query if HSE was offering multiannual funding for the clinical programmes.

There are 5 EIP services in place across the HSE. All are at various stages of development and resourcing when compared with the HSE EIP Model of Care. The 5 EIP teams are RISE, South Lee & EIST North Lee CHO4 (2 teams), Sligo/ Leitrim/ South Donegal CHO 1, DETECT- Dublin, North Wicklow CHO 6, Meath CHO8. Currently 19% of adults presenting with a first episode of psychosis have access to an EIP Service.

Funding from the Women's Health Taskforce (2022) is supporting the development of the first CAMHS based psychosis service. This service will see young people presenting with psychotic like symptoms e.g. hearing voices a few times a week, experiencing paranoia (65% of whom are girls). We know that without intervention up ~ 35% of these young people go on to develop psychosis. This service will be in CHO6 but will be co-located with the existing DETECT EIP service for over 18s.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Niazi", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive