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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th May 2023

PQ Number: 22184/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health how many areas have no access to an Early Intervention Psychosis service in Ireland currently; 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.

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Each year in Ireland an estimated 1,500 people develop a psychotic disorder for the first time. Psychosis is associated with the most serious and disabling conditions we treat in mental health services. Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Delusional disorder, Drug induced psychosis and Severe depression are the key diagnoses seen in EIP services. These conditions are associated with very high levels of disability- relapses, functional impairment, cognitive impairment, unemployment and marginalisation. They can also be associated with high levels of carer burden. However, evidence from EIP services > 20 years internationally indicates that the trajectory can be fundamentally altered if access to care is improved, evidence based interventions are provided and there is consistent support throughout this 'critical period' of 3 years post onset. Early Intervention in Psychosis (EIP) is an evidence-based approach that can transform the experiences and outcomes of people facing psychosis. EIP services can change a message of despair to a message of realistic hope and optimism.

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 2016** (1.9 Million since 2020 – 5.9 WTEs in 2021 and 11.2 WTE's in 2022.). Currently ~19% of people presenting with a first episode of psychosis have access to an EIP Service. However, 0% of children under 18 years old have access to an EIP Team. There are 5 EIP services in place across the HSE. All are at various stages of development and resourcing when compared with

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 CHO 8.

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 to ~ 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.

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Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
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