



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

Office of the National Clinical
Advisor and Group Lead for Mental
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Deputy Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th February 2024

PQ Number: 44484/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been allocated for the national clinical programme for self-harm and suicide related ideation in the previous five years; where this funding has been allocated; if funding will be increased in Budget 2024; 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.

Published in 2016, the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients who present to the Emergency Department aims to ensure that any person who present to the ED following self-harm or with suicidal ideation will receive a prompt bio-psycho-social assessment. Delivered by specialist mental health nurses, this programme provides support and advice on suicide prevention to next of kin, links the patient with the next appropriate care, and ensures both the patient and their GP will receive a written plan of care. It commenced in a number of sites from 2014.

An updated Model of Care National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide related Ideation provides a framework to improve services for all who self-harm or present with suicide-related ideation, regardless of where they present. Launched by Minister Butler in February 2022 it outlines in detail the response for people who present to the emergency department including services for children and adolescents with Self-harm and Suicide Related Ideation. The Model of Care ensures that those presenting to the ED receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional. Every effort is made to ensure that a family member or supportive adult is involved in assessment and safety planning, and that they are followed up and linked to appropriate next care.

Since March 2023 the programme has been provided in all 26 Emergency Departments (EDs) with 24-hour service. All presentations to emergency departments are triaged by emergency medicine nurses before onward referral to mental health Clinical Nurse specialist and or Mental Health Liaison team. To date the programme has funded 48.5 CNS posts across 26 EDs



(open 24/7) and to the 3 paediatric EDs in Dublin, 6 CNS based in primary care delivery SCAN service and 0.5 Consultant Psychiatrist- Liaison Mercy Hospital Cork and 0.2 Assistant Director of Nursing National.

While continuing to maintain and further improve the NCP within the acute hospital EDs, the updated NCP SH MOC now extends into the community. An important feature in the Updated MOC is the incorporation of the existing Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) service within the NCP SH. It will be rolled out nationally in the coming years as a collaboration between GPs and specialist mental health professionals, with the aim of delivering a service of similar quality for people who present in suicidal crisis in primary care settings. Further information and associated documents can be assessed at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/>

The Programme was initially funded in 2013/14 to recruit 34.5 nurses and one liaison consultant psychiatrist. Since then the programme has been funded in 2018 (6 CNS), 2019 (8 CNS) and in 2022 (6 CNS) were funded commence a number of SCAN services in primary care. A submission was made as part of 2024 estimates process. At this point we have not confirmation of any additional funding for 2024.

NCP SH SI	Full Budget	Total WTE
PFG 2014	1,163,962	35.5
PFG 2018	466,543	7.20
PFG 2019	586,324	8.00
PFG 2022 (SCAN)	442,447	6.00
TOTAL	2,659,276	56.7

The posts were allocated as follows:

2022 SCAN posts – 6 CNS posts

CHO	MH Service	Number of posts
2	Mayo	2
4	Cork	2
5	Carlow	1
8	Meath	1



ED Department	PFG 2014	PFG 2018	PFG 2019
Navan	1.00		
Our Lady's Drogheda	1.00		
Mayo General	1.00		1.00
Cavan General Hospital	1.00		
Connolly Hospital	2.00		
Kerry General	2.00	1.00	
Roscommon (Urgent Care Centre)	1.00	Transferred Galway	
UHG	1.00		1.00
Portiuncula Hospital	1.00		
Letterkenny	2.00	1.00	
Sligo General Hospital	1.00		
Cork University Hospital	1.00		1.00
Mercy University Hospital Cork	1.00		1.00
Mater	2.00	1.00	
Beaumont	2.50		
St. Vincent's Hospital Dublin 4	3.00		1.00
Kilkenny	1.00		
Tullamore/Portlaoise (Self Harm)	1.00		1.00
South Tipperary General	1.00		
Limerick Regional Hospital	1.00		
Naas	2.00	1.00	
Mullingar (Liaison)	-		1.00
Waterford	1.00		
Wexford	-		1.00
St. James' Hospital	2.00		
Tallaght University Hospital	2.00		
Temple Street CHI*		1	
Crumlin CHI		1	
Tallaght CHI		1	

Emergency Department allocation of funded nursing posts.

*Temple Street post was changed to SCAN post in 2022.

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