



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th October 2023.

PQ Number: 39433/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the progress of the ADHD plan in Sharing the Vision; if targets are being met; 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.

Sharing the Vision the Government Policy on Mental Health Services, in its section on populations with special needs emphasises ADHD is a clearly recognised impairing lifelong condition. It highlights specifically that it is both under recognised and under treated in adults. It states it impairs quality of life, results in on-going distress and is often associated with inappropriate treatment interventions. It emphasises the benefit of mental health treatment including psycho-social interventions. In recommendation 53 it mandates the implementation of the HSE's National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Adults with ADHD and evaluation of this implementation.

The HSE's NCP for Adults with ADHD was fully approved by the HSE in 2020 and formally launched by Minister Butler in early 2021 recommends 11 catchment area specific Adult ADHD Clinics with a further service to work alongside the Forensic Mental Health Teams providing in reach Services to Dublin prisons.

€1.3 million was allocated in 2021 to establish three pilot Adult ADHD Clinics and these were all operational in 2022.

In 2022 a further €1.8 million was allocated to establish 4 more Adult ADHD Clinics. Two of these are now operational with a third due to open in Quarter 4 2023. Difficulties in recruiting a consultant psychiatrist have delayed the opening of the fourth. This is now the subject of an international recruitment drive. Funding for four further Adult ADHD Clinics was requested in the Budget 2023 submission to the Department of Health but unfortunately this was not

granted. This is being sought again in the Budget 2024 submission. If granted this would enable an ADHD Clinic to be established in the four areas without a service.

Adult ADHD Clinics in place or in recruitment

- I. CHO1- Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal
CHO3- Limerick, Clare, north Tipperary
CHO4- Cork City, North and east
CHO4- Kerry/West Cork
CHO6- Dublin South-East, North and South Wicklow
- II. CHO7 Dublin: to start Q4 2023
- III. CHO8/7 – Laois Offaly/Longford/ Westmeath/ Kildare/ West Wicklow: awaiting recruitment of The Consultant Psychiatrist

Areas with no service funded yet:

- CHO2- Galway, Roscommon, Mayo
CHO1/8- Cavan/ Monaghan/ Meath/ Louth
CHO5- Waterford/ Wexford/ Kilkenny/ Carlow/ South Tipperary
CHO9- North Dublin City and County

Experience of the 5 operational services, also noted internationally, is that post-pandemic and with increased public awareness referral numbers are far in excess of those predicted. For this reason an additional doctor at senior registrar level is being sought for all currently funded teams and all teams being sought in Budget 2024.

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