



Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Oibríochtaí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte
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25th September 2023

Ms. Catherine Connolly, TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By email to: catherine.connolly@oireachtas.ie

Ref: PQ 40438/23

To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date on the Programme for Government commitment to establish a national leadership role for mental health in the HSE; the timeline for the role to be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

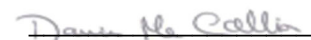
In line with Government policy, the establishment of Health Regions will further support the integration of services at a local level to the benefit of our service users. This requires national leadership across our mental health services to ensure we can deliver the necessary improvements in service across the regions.

At a national level, there is a national Mental Health Operations Lead and a National Clinical Lead for Mental Health focused primarily on adult services. The Operations and Clinical leads work closely together to provide leadership to the delivery system to ensure delivery of services in line with the National Service Plan and to implement policy in this area. Combining operational and clinical expertise provides the necessary leadership skills needed to deliver successful change.

In addition, the recognition of the need to strengthen the leadership and focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is evidenced by the recent appointments of an Assistant National Director for Child and Youth Mental Health and a Clinical Lead for Child & Youth Mental Health. There are no plans at this time to create a National Director for Mental Health post in the HSE. I believe these recent appointments in senior leadership roles within mental health will further strengthen the national leadership across our mental health services.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,


Damien McCallion
Chief Operations Officer