



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
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Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 10th July 2024

PQ Number: 28101/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost to recruit nine additional WTE suicide crisis assessment nurses for the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Dear Deputy O'Connor,

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.

A 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.

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. Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurses (SCAN) provide assessment and support to GP patients who present with suicide-related thoughts, who might otherwise be referred to the emergency department or community mental health services. The SCAN service is being rolled out nationally as part of the National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide related Ideation published in 2022.

There are currently 23 funded CNS (Clinical Nurse Specialist) posts providing a SCAN service across HSE:

- 4 in Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CHO1)
- 2 in Community Healthcare West (CHO2)

- 4 in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO4)
- 5 in South East Community Healthcare (CHO5)
- 4 in Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare (CHO8)
- 4 (3 of which are based in CAMHS) in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO9).

The SCAN service conforms to the key recommendations of A Vision for Change (2006), and more recently [Sharing the Vision](#) (2020) and [Connecting for Life](#), Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020, which has been extended to 2024, as well as numerous other government and HSE policy and guidance documents.

The estimated cost of 9 clinical nurse specialists for SCAN is €721,629. This includes allowances, PRSI and non-pay costs.

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