



Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

PQ Number: 30669/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if she will outline the current model of care in place for individuals with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and addiction; the number of individuals with a dual diagnosis who accessed integrated mental health and addiction services in the past year; the number of individuals who were not accepted for treatment by community mental health teams due to an active addiction, and vice versa by addiction services due to the presence of a mental illness; the availability of dedicated dual diagnosis teams in each CHO; the steps being taken to implement the commitments in *Sharing the Vision and Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery* in relation to dual diagnosis care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The HSE launched the *Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis* in May 2023, following a national consultation process involving a wide range of stakeholders. This work was undertaken by a dedicated National Working Group and closely aligned with the commitments set out in *Sharing the Vision and Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery*. These policy frameworks provided the foundation for a person-centred, recovery-oriented approach to meeting the needs of individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance use difficulties.

The HSE and the Department of Health remain committed to implementing this model, with a phased rollout of Adult and Adolescent Dual Diagnosis teams across the country. Further teams will be sought as part of the 2026 budget submission, reflecting the recognised need to expand access and continue building system-wide capacity.

A detailed overview of the model is available here: [Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis \(HSE\)](#)

Progress to date includes:

- The first Adult Dual Diagnosis team commenced in Cork in July 2024 and has received 128 referrals to the end of May 2025.
- The second team, based in the Midwest, began delivering services in January 2025, with 46 referrals by the end of May. Referrals have come from Community Mental Health Teams, HSE Drug and Alcohol Services, and the Perinatal Psychiatry team.
- Recruitment is ongoing for a third Adult Dual Diagnosis team in Waterford, with three Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) posts planned for later this year.
- Separately, a Clinical Nurse Specialist post is being recruited for a pilot in-reach Dual Diagnosis service in Cork Prison.

Adolescent services are also seeing important developments, particularly through the integration of the model into existing services:

- Recruitment is nearly complete for the Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Hub team in Dublin North, which will enhance the HSE's SASSY service in the region and support RHA Dublin North & North East.
- In parallel, recruitment is ongoing to expand the YoDA team in Tallaght to establish a second Adolescent Hub team for RHA Dublin South & Midlands.

These enhanced adolescent services represent a very positive step in meeting the needs of young people presenting with complex mental health and substance use needs, and highlight how existing strengths in the system can be built upon through targeted investment and integrated care.

Data on the number of individuals who were not accepted for treatment by community mental health teams due to an active addiction, and vice versa by addiction services due to the presence of a mental illness, is not currently collected at a national level, though work to improve coordination and integration of services is ongoing through the phased implementation of the Model of Care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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