



Oifig an Cheann Seirbhíse
Seirbhíse Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
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Luimneach
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Deputy Maurice Quinlivan
34 Denmark Street
Limerick

9th April 2025

PQ ref 13587/25: To ask the Minister for Health the level of funding provided, and scheduled to be provided to, the Community Access Support Team pilot project to fund the provision of a clinical nurse specialist, social care worker and senior social care practitioner; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

A Business case for CAST was submitted by the Assistant National Director for Mental Health on September 11th 2023, to the Department of Health for consideration in the context of the estimates process for 2024.

In the meantime, we have been requested to establish CAST out of existing resources. We established CAST in January 13th 2025, with the following three HSE Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)

1 x Clinical Nurse Specialist (started 6th January 2025)

1 x Senior Social Worker Practitioner (started 6th January 2025)

1 x Social Care Worker (Started 24th January 2025)

No additional funding or WTE increase has been received for the CAST pilot. The pilot will be evaluated after a period of one year and depending on the outcome of the evaluation, a proposal will be put forward regarding the future of CAST based on the data available gathered during the pilot.

Yours Sincerely,

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service - Mental Health Services,
HSE Mid West