



**Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

DATE: 3rd June 2025

PQ number: 26849/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of fully implementing the National Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis over five years and if she will make a statement on the matter – Sorca Clarke.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis was launched in May 2023, followed by recruitment of the two adult teams (in the RHA Midwest and in County Cork). The Dual Diagnosis team based in Cork commenced the delivery of services from July 2024 followed by start of Dual Diagnosis services in the Midwest from January 2025, with plans to recruit further team members in 2025. Furthermore, recruitment of staff for the Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Hub team in Dublin North (to cover RHA Dublin North & North East) to enhance the existing HSE SASSY team is nearly complete and they are delivering Dual Diagnosis services in this regard. The recruitment for the enhancement of the YoDA team to establish the second Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Hub team for RHA Dublin South & Midlands is ongoing.

In addition, three Whole Time Equivalents (WTEs) are planned to be recruited for the third Adult Dual Diagnosis team based in Waterford later this year. Also, the recruitment of a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Pilot Dual Diagnosis In-reach team for Cork Prison is also expected to be completed later this year.

The complete roll out of the Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis over five years or longer includes pay and non-pay costs, associated with each team. The Model of Care recommends 12 adult dual diagnosis teams in total including the above three teams in RHA Midwest, County Cork and the team based in Waterford. This is in addition to the four hub Adolescent Dual Diagnosis teams, which include the teams being established as above, in RHA Dublin North & North East and RHA Dublin South & Midlands.

According to the Model of Care, each of these teams are recommended to have a staff allocation of 13 WTEs. The cost of 13 WTEs for a Dual Diagnosis team is around €1.7 million per annum at present, which will rise with the current agreement for public sector pay increase, over the next year. In addition to the Adolescent Dual diagnosis hub teams, there will be around four spoke teams supporting the Adolescent services across Ireland. Each of these spoke teams will have around four WTEs each and will have pay related costs of around €450,000 per annum. It should be noted these pay costings are based on mid-point salary scale for each of the grades and is inclusive of employers' PRSI.



The non-pay incurred when teams are established will include cost of buildings, utilities, IT supplies, training, travel etc. The non-pay element will be dependent on local resources, sharing resources with other services and other related determinants at the time of implementation. Hence, at present it is not possible to provide non-pay costings for the full implementation of the dual diagnosis services over the coming years.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries on the above.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi,
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health,
Health Service Executive.