



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

26th May 2022

PQ Number: 26679/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the cost to fully implement the National Clinical Programme for Early Intervention Psychosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

The Model of Care for this National Clinical Programme was developed in collaboration with the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland and was launched in June 2019. The implementation of the EIP Model of Care is in line with Sharing the Vision- the Irish National Mental Health Policy launched in 2020. The EIP programme seeks to ensure that people presenting with psychosis get rapid access to expert assessment and evidence based intervention including psychological interventions, family interventions, employment support, physical health support and medication. The EIP programme is an 'invest to save' programme. Research demonstrates that for every €1 invested in the development of EIP services there is a return of €18 to the economy. This is achieved by reducing admissions to hospital, reducing relapses, preventing long-term disability and supporting people to stay in education and/or employment. EIP services also work closely with addiction services and integrate delivery of care to ensure people who have dual diagnosis get support with their addiction and mental health issues in a coordinated integrated way.

EIP teams: The rates of psychosis vary considerably across and within countries. Rates are higher where there are more young people, more socioeconomic deprivation and greater ethnic diversity. A fully staffed EIP Specialist Team in an urban area, with a high incidence of psychosis providing care to a population of 200,000 people aged 14- 64 years old will cost in the region of €2.5 million. Where as a team in a more rural setting would be expected to have lower numbers of psychosis cases and will cost less to staff in line with the EIP Model of Care.

The HSE commissioned an Incidence of Psychosis mapping report from an Expert group in University College London. This report will be published in late 2022 and will support the EIP NCP to ensure resources are fairly allocated as EIP teams are rolled out nationally.

The EIP NCP has received 2.4 million in funding to support implementation from 2015 until December 2021. This has resulted in

- 19% of the adult population have access to an EIP service in Ireland currently (5 Services, 955k pop). **Note** not all teams are fully resourced in line with the EIP Model of care and cannot provide all aspects of care yet. They will require ongoing investment from EIP NCP to meet local demand & Model of Care standards.
- 0% of children have access to an EIP service in Ireland

20 more EIP specialist services are required to provide national coverage for all people aged 14- 64 years old as per the EIP Model of Care at an estimated cost of €40M. We estimate that we can recruit and establish 3 new teams each year over 6-7 years at an annual cost of €6M.

Training and Education is a key pillar of the NCP. We host quarterly EIP network days online and these are free to attend for anyone working in mental health services. These events were well attended (150- 200 people/ event in 2021). In addition we collaborated with colleagues in mental health, voluntary sector, service users and families to create a number of e-modules, training events and resources to support capacity building in EIP. We also collaborated with Trinity College and NUI Galway to develop the first Psychosis specific Cognitive Behavioural Therapy course for CBT therapists in Ireland. It is difficult to estimate an exact training budget per year as this will grow as teams are developed. A rolling ring-fenced budget is required annually at an estimated cost of 20k growing as more teams come on stream.

Capital Costs: Each team will also require a team premise from which to work. It is not possible to give an accurate cost here as each local area will differ.

Further information on the programme and our resources can be accessed at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/psychosis/>

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
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