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**Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

PQ Number: 18525/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the steps that have been taken to overcome implementation barriers which are outlined in 3.7.2 in the model of care for dual-diagnosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Date: 7th May 2024

Dear Deputy Ward,

Thanks for your PQ seeking information on the steps that have been taken to overcome implementation barriers as outlines in 3.7.2 of the Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis. About 'Policy barriers', this was overcome by the support & launch of the Model of Care jointly by the Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Drug Strategy, Health & Wellbeing in May 2023.

On the matter of 'organisational structure and financing' across different divisions of the health service, HSE Addiction Services (Social Inclusion) in addition to providing cross clinical governance, have also part funded the whole time equivalents for the Adult Dual Diagnosis Team in Cork and Adolescent hub teams in CHO 9 and CHO 7. This is in addition to their support in providing buildings and other supports in these regions.

Also, funding have been shared between Dual Diagnosis Clinical Programme, HSE Social Inclusion and Health & Wellbeing for providing training for staff involved in delivering Dual Diagnosis services. This will also help overcome the barriers in terms of 'providing adequate levels of training in mental health to staff in addiction services and vice versa'. Furthermore, 'programme barriers' have been overcome by having an integrated approach across the HSE wherein resources are shared between the various HSE divisions.

The integrated approach and various pathways for referral to the dual diagnosis services have overcome the issue of 'lack of service models and guidelines' in addition to 'clinical barriers'. With the no wrong door approach, 'service user and family barriers' as in 3.7.2 shall be overcome. Furthermore, psychoeducation shall be provided by members of the Dual Diagnosis team at local level through individual and group approach, to help with the 'psychoeducation and information on Dual Diagnosis' including psychoeducation on the association between substance use disorders and mental illness.

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- Mental Health.**