



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Office of the
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Deputy Bernard J. Durkan.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19th April 2024

PQ Number: 9932/24

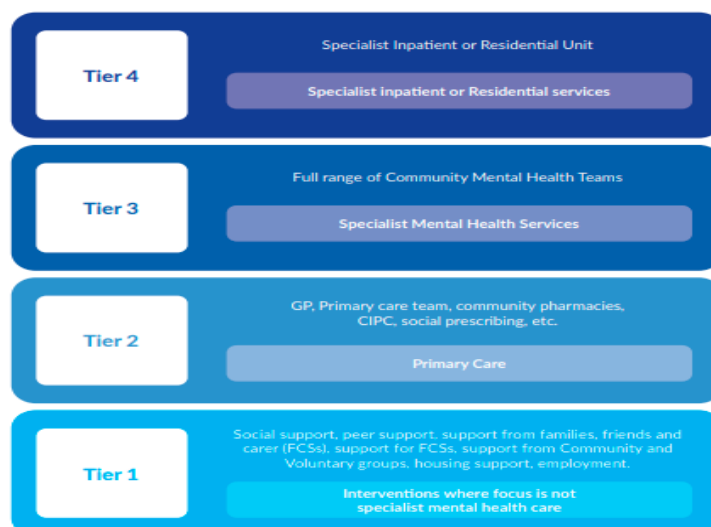
PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to outline the ongoing efforts underway to enhance the quality and scale of community and institutional mental health services with particular reference to the need to achieve quality of service in line with the requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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.

Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020) (StV) provides a policy framework for the continued development and enhancement of mental health services in Ireland. The policy adopts a lifecycle approach to address the needs of the population by placing the individual at the centre of service delivery at different stages throughout the lifecycle. It aims to enhance the provision of mental health services and supports across a continuum of care using a stepped model of care approach in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for each service user.

The table below provides an overview of the stepped care approach as outlined in the policy





Some intended outcomes of StV include:

- the creation of a mental health system that focuses on the requirements of the individual
- the development and delivery of a range of integrated activities to promote positive mental health in the community
- increased participation of service users, families, carers and supporters in the design of mental health services
- the enhanced provision of accessible, comprehensive and community-based mental health services
- enhanced capacity of primary care services to respond to mental health needs, thereby reducing the requirement for specialist mental health services

It is envisaged that by strengthening services and supports at Tier's 1 and 2 will reduce the requirement for specialist, secondary mental health services over time.

Implementation of *Sharing the Vision* is overseen by the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee which has broad membership and reports quarterly to the Minister for Mental Health. This policy together with our legislative responsibilities under the MHA (2001) and to the regulator, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) sets the aim for multi-annual capital planning.

The commitment to the delivery of this aim is evidenced by the annual scale of capital investment in providing modern fit for purpose mental health approved centres and in the co-location where possible of community mental health services in purpose built primary care centres across the country.

The 2023 Capital Plan is available here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/capital-plan-2023.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker', written over a horizontal line.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services