



Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

21/08/2024

PQ Number: 31419/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the areas that currently do not have access to early intervention psychosis services within the State, in tabular form. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 Early Intervention in Psychosis Clinical Programme published its Model of Care in May 2019. Each year in Ireland an estimated 1,500 people develop a psychotic disorder for the first time. National Implementation of this clinical programme will require the development of approximately 25 EIP services in Ireland in line with Sharing the Vision recommendation 52.

This Model of Care sets out a programme, which addresses three key areas:

1. **Reduce delays in accessing specialist care:** Increase community education and awareness - GPs, schools. Ensure access to expert assessment within 72 hours.
2. **Increase access to the full range of evidence-based interventions:** Medication, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for psychosis, Behavioural Family Therapy, Individual Placement Support (Employment and Education support) and Physical Health Monitoring and Support.
3. **Ensure assertive, patient centred, recovery-oriented care.** Each person with psychosis is assigned to an EIP Key worker who collaborates with them, their family or supporters, the EIP team, the GP and other professionals to coordinate care and support recovery.

There are **currently 5 EIP adult services** in place across the HSE: RISE, South Lee & EIST North Lee CHO4 (2 teams), Sligo/ Leitrim/ South Donegal CHO 1, DETECT- Dublin, North Wicklow CHO 6, Meath CHO8. Currently 19% of adults presenting with a first episode of psychosis have access to an EIP Service.

Funding from the Women's Health Taskforce is supporting the development of the **first Youth/CAMHS based psychosis service in CHO6**. This service will see young people presenting with psychotic like symptoms e.g. hearing voices a few times a week, experiencing paranoia (65% of whom are girls). This service is recruiting staff and will be in place before year end 2024.

The table outlines the EIP teams by CHO area.

CHO	EIP Team
CHO1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal • All other counties 	Team in place No team
CHO2	No EIP team
CHO3	No EIP team
CHO4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RISE Team serving South Lee, Cork • Eist Team serving North Lee, Cork • All other areas including Kerry 	No EIP Team
CHO5	No EIP team
CHO6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DETECT Adult Team • DETECT Youth Team (In recruitment) 	
CHO7	No EIP team
CHO8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meath • All other counties 	EIP team No EIP team
CHO9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dublin (new 2024) 	4 WTE posts funded from additional Mental health Funding 2024 – awaiting primary notification numbers to commence recruitment.

Total investment in EIP NCP is €4 million since 2015. We are awaiting release of primary notification numbers 2024 from the additional 10 million allocated for mental health. This will support the recruitment of 4 new posts for an EIP team in North Dublin including a Consultant psychiatrist. All clinical programmes are dependent on new additional funding each year in the budget to be implemented fully and programmes can take a number of years to be fully implemented.

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. The HSE commissioned an Incidence of Psychosis Mapping Report from an Expert Group in University College London this was published in December 2022. The predicted incidence of FEP in Ireland in our candidate model was 22.2 new FEP cases per 100,000 person-years (95%CrI: 20.4-24.0). Predicted incidence varies from 15.2/100,000 in a CMHT in Kerry to 33.8/ 100,000 in a CMHT in North Cork city. This incidence report indicates that it may be less expensive than previously anticipated to resource new EIP teams in Ireland. It will allow us to ensure that staffing allocation matches anticipated demand. It is proposed that once the Census 2023 data becomes available this mapping report will be updated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Niazi', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive