



Mental Health Reform

Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

HSE 2013 National Service Plan Highlights (see page 17 of the Plan):

- Mental health service budget of €733 million, representing 5.5% of the overall health budget (a slight proportional increase) and a 3.1% nominal increase on the 2012 allocation
- Commitment to completing 2012 investment programme appointment of 414 posts
- Additional 477 posts allocated for 2013 (see detailed table below)
- Planned reduction of a minimum of 102 acute inpatient beds
- New forensic mental hospital will be progressed in capital programme 2013
- In terms of other capital expenditure, a broad commitment to continue to “deliver the mental health investment programme in line with *A Vision for Change*”

It is noteworthy that the HSE states that ‘budgetary pressures’ were the cause of the failure to spend the €35 million allocated in 2012. The €35 million investment planned for 2013 is “subject to affordability”.

The mental health services suffered a loss of 432 staff during 2012, from a position at the start of January 2012 of 9,207 to a position in December 2012 of 8,775.

Performance targets for 2013:

- The CAMHS targets of 70% of new referrals seen within 3 months and no child waiting more than 12 months are the same as the 2012 targets. This is in a context where referrals in 2012 were 17% up on the previous year.
- The adult admissions target of 14,000 is in line with the actual number of admissions for 2012.
- The adult involuntary admissions target is increased by 18% to 1,642 and this reflects the actual number of adults expected to have been involuntarily admitted in 2012.
- The Plan contains a commitment for the first time to develop performance targets for adult community mental health services and for old age psychiatry services, though these are not specified.
- The plan anticipates a 15% increase in the number of new referrals that will be offered an appointment and seen by CAMHS teams compared to the actual figures for 2012.

Allocation of €35 million:

Key Result Area	€ millions	Whole Time Equivalents
Community Mental Health Teams (Clinical Programme)	13.50	180
Responding to Self-Harm in the Emergency Departments and suicide crisis assessment nurse (SCAN)	3.15	45
Suicide Prevention (NOSP)	1.00	0
Counselling in Primary Care	2.50	0
Mental Health Services for Older People	4.60	100
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Community Teams	3.60	80
Forensic services	2.40	28
Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Services	3.75	40
Mental Health ICT System	.50	4
Totals	35.00	477