

Forensic Community Mental Health Team 2012

HSE AREA	West	
Executive Catchment Area	Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary	
Date of Inspection	17 April 2012	
Team	Forensic Team	
Population as per 2011 census	18,100 general catchment population and Limerick Prison with 350 prisoners	
Specialism of Team	Forensic	
Team HQ	St. Anne's Day Hospital	Where: Limerick city
Dedicated Day Hospital	None	
Dedicated Day Centre	None	

1. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM COMPOSITION

	NUMBER (WTE)	Grade	Other Responsibilities
Team Co- Coordinator	0		
Consultant psychiatrist	0.5	Consultant Psychiatrist	General Adult team
NCHD	0.5	NCHD	
Clinical psychologist	0		
Social worker	0		
Occupational therapist	0		
ADON	0		
Nurse Therapist(s)	0		
Clinical nurse specialists	0		
Community MH Nurses	0.2	CNM	The remaining 0.8 of this WTE post is in the role of Clinical Nurse Manager of a 24 hour nurse-staffed residence.
Administration support	0		
Others	0		

Nature of Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-reach to Limerick Prison • Liaison to the courts • Reports for the courts in respect of prisoners seen in Limerick prison • Forensic consults and assessments of in-patients in the approved centre in Unit 5B Limerick Regional Hospital • Support to teams managing in-patients with a forensic history in Unit 5B
Prison Population	350 prisoners in Limerick prison: 300 male, 50 female
Care Pathway	<p>All prisoners were initially triaged by the prison general practitioner (GP). If indicated, a referral was then made to the forensic team. Following an assessment by the nurse, the patient was then reviewed by the consultant psychiatrist.</p> <p>There was no psychiatrically trained nurse in the Irish Prison Service (IPS) staff in Limerick prison.</p> <p>A clinical psychologist was employed in a 0.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) post in Limerick prison. This was an IPS post.</p> <p>The consultant psychiatrist held two clinics weekly in the prison.</p>
Number of Patients Seen in 2011	<p>543 patients were seen and treated in Limerick Prison in 2011: 488 male and 55 female.</p> <p>Of these, 344 were first attenders.</p> <p>Since the beginning of January 2012 to the date of inspection (April 2012), 345 patients had been seen.</p> <p>There had been 119 new referrals since the beginning of 2012.</p>

<p>Follow on Care of Prisoner patients</p>	<p>Six prisoners had been transferred to the Central Mental Hospital in 2011.</p> <p>On release from Limerick prison, patients were followed by their relevant Community Mental Health teams.</p>
<p>Plans for the Forensic Service in Limerick</p>	<p>A six-phase plan had been drawn to develop the community forensic psychiatric team.</p>
<p>Challenges for the Forensic Mental Health Service in Limerick</p>	<p>A forensic service was provided by 0.5 WTE consultant psychiatrist and a 0.2 WTE nurse. In addition to providing a forensic service, the consultant was also responsible for a sector team population. Prisoners were triaged by generally trained nurses and this did not facilitate the best care pathway to a specialist mental health service. The 0.2 WTE nurse provided two sessions per week in the prison. The forensic team staff did not incorporate their records in the IPS electronic medical records system. The resources to provide the forensic service were minimal and had not been resourced adequately. It was difficult to see how a comprehensive, safe service could be provided in light of the very poor resourcing of this post.</p>