

Tynwald Written Answer

The Hon. Member for Garff (Mrs Caine) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Care –

What progress has been made towards the establishment of a Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome service?

The Health and Social Care Minister (Mr Ashford): Since the launch of Manx Care on the 1st April 2021, significant progress has been made in the establishment of an ME/CFS and Long Covid service on the Isle of Man.

A business case has been developed to seek funding for the recruitment of a multidisciplinary team to offer a comprehensive ME/CFS and Long Covid service. This team will comprise:

- Specialist Occupational Therapist
- Specialist Physiotherapist
- Specialist Dietician
- Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Appointment of a GP Champion/s
- Admin support
- Support from off island specialist provider

The business case has been approved internally within Manx Care and within the DHSC and is awaiting consideration at Treasury Board alongside other revenue bids for 2022/23.

Creating a high-quality service catering to the varied needs of both patient groups is a top priority and the feedback received from international experts, consulting on this project, has been very positive. Implementation of the full scale service will require recruitment and reorganisation of resources, but steps have already been taken to ensure the first patients can be admitted to the service as soon as possible.

It is envisaged that an interim service will be created before the end of the calendar year by reallocating existing resources and funding, allowing for a seamless transition to a full service when the revenue bid is authorised and funding released. Progress is being made around development of job descriptions which will be used to recruit the new posts that will work within the service. In addition, some initial clinical pathway design is underway being led by on island clinicians who have an interest in ME/CFS. This is being supported by off island specialists who have offered to help with the establishment of the Isle of Man ME/CFS and Long Covid service.

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