



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
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Deputy Bernard J. Durkan,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

13th June 2022

PQ Number: 27116/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which it is envisaged to identify deficiencies in CAMHS; the extent to which it is intended to address these issues in the short-term; 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.

Investment in CAMHS Services

There has been a significant investment in CAMHS over a number of years to meet increased demand and to improve services for children and young people with mental health difficulties. Currently there are 73 multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams in place providing important assessment and treatment services.

Within the past six years, €22.6m of development funding has been directed to enhance CAMHS services. Since 2013, an additional 18 CAMHS teams have been established and close to 300 additional Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts added to the workforce. Alongside these targeted enhancements of capacity in CAMHS teams, there has also been investment in telehealth, eating disorder teams and in-patient care. The HSE have also invested in services such as Jigsaw and Primary Care Psychology for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties who do not need to access the specialist mental health services that CAMHS provide.

The Maskey Report

The HSE is committed to the full implementation of all recommendations outlined in the Maskey Report. Implementation will include an extensive programme of audit and research in the CAMHS service, overseen by a National Oversight Group. Three separate audit and research processes are currently in development. An independent expert team has been established to conduct the audit of prescribing practice within CAMHS. This audit will include all diagnoses including ADHD. Administratively supported by the HSE's National Centre for Clinical Audit, the independent expert team is currently finalising the



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audit process, methodology and tools with a view to commencing the audit over the coming weeks. An audit of compliance with the 2019 CAMHS operational guidelines is also due to commence over the coming weeks and is expected to be completed within six months of date of commencement. The engagement of an academic partner to conduct qualitative research into CAMHS experiences is at an advanced stage. This will provide detail of the lived experience of children and families who engage with the CAMHS services.

A sample audit of 50 files at North Kerry CAMHS is being undertaken in order to give assurance to the public regarding the quality of the CAMHS service being provided in North Kerry. The HSE is in the process of finalising arrangements in relation to the undertaking of this audit, which is likely to involve a number of Specialist Consultants from across the country. In addition, CAMHS teams across the country have assisted the Mental Health Commission (MHC) in its review of CAMHS services, as announced by the MHC in February this year.

Performance Monitoring and Reporting of CAMHS Services

As part of the HSE performance reporting cycle, there is monthly reporting on CAMHS activity in Key Performance areas.

Latest available draft data on CAMHS services indicate the following:

- 4,003 children on Wait list – 134 less than March figure of 4,137
- April - 94.5% of urgent referrals responded to within 3 working days (same as prev. month) which is above Target of >90%
- 1,781 referrals (including re-referred) received by CAMHS in April
- YTD 7,920 referrals received, - a 30.1% increase on target of 6,089, and 5.2% increase year to date versus same period last year
- 96.8% of new or re-referred cases were seen within 12 months in community CAMHS services YTD April 2022

In addition, at national level, monthly engagement meetings are held with each CHO area whereby concerns on any aspect of operational performance can be discussed.

The improvement of Youth Mental Health services continues to be a key priority for the HSE as it continues to implement the recommendations set out in *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*.



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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 'Jim Ryan'.

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services