Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
Baile Átha Cliath 20, D20 HK69

Office of the
Assistant National Director
Mental Health Operations

St Lomans Hospital, Palmerstown,
Dublin 20, D20 HK69

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t: 01-6207304
e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Denis Naughton.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th March 2024

PQ Number: **47467/23**
PQ Question: **To ask the Minister for Health when it is expected that the community healthcare west CAMHS will have IT-enabled patient administration systems; when it is expected a decision will be made on a future IT system appropriate to CAMHS from the national group overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the Maskey Report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. –Denis Naughton**

Dear Deputy Naughton,

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.

It is a priority for the HSE to ensure service delivery is supported by a fit for purpose digital infrastructure. It light of this, developments are underway including the establishment of a Task group to oversee a phased scaling up of e-referral in community mental health, with an initial focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Work is on-going to register and train CAMHS teams enable the use of e-referrals using the general HIQA approved e-referral form. To date, 24 CAMHS teams have received e-referral training from Healthlink and currently 11 teams are using the e-referral system.

In addition, a specialised CAMHS e-referral form has been developed and approved by the ICGP and the HSE. This specialised form is in the final stages of development and testing with Healthlink with a view to making this available to all CAMHS teams in Q2 2024.

Appropriate ICT software and Infrastructure
It is a priority for the HSE to ensure service delivery is supported by a fit for purpose digital infrastructure throughout CAMHS.The HSE recognises that there is an immediate need to proceed with the roll out of an ICT solution for CAMHS. While some ICT solutions have been implemented within CAMHS, (CHO's 6, 7 and 9 currently have an ICT system in place), the majority of services are currently utilising paper based systems. The Maskey Report (2022), the Inspector of Mental Health Services' review of CAMHS and resulting national reviews/audits have highlighted the urgent requirement to ensure a robust ICT solution is provided in CAMHS. The recently established Office for Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) have incorporated the need to deliver a CAMHS IT solution as part of its Child and Youth Mental Health Service Improvement Programme.

An options appraisal has been conducted on a number of systems and a preferred system and vendor has been identified. Engagement is ongoing with procurement and the vendor in relation to implementation, planning and costs.

Due to the clinical urgency to implement an ICT solution to improve clinical governance across the CAMHS teams, a business case is being accelerated through a joint development process between the Child and Youth Mental Health Office and HSE e-Health. The business case will outline a phased approach to the roll-out of an ICT solution across the regions. The timelines for this approach are currently being considered as part of the business case development process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hennessy
General Manager
Child & Youth Mental Health Office