Deputy Colm Burke.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th February 2024

PQ Number: 48790/23
PQ Question : To ask the Minister for Health to provide details in relation to the anticipated timescale for computerisation of CAMHS cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Colm Burke

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Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Force 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 9 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 rolling this out to all CAMHS teams once available.

Appropriate ICT software and Infrastructure
The HSE recognises that there is an immediate need to proceed with the roll out of an Interim ICT solution for CAMHS whilst awaiting the Integrated Community Case Management System (ICCMS) deployment. 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.

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. CHO areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 all require the interim CAMHS ICT Solution to be implemented as soon as possible. Due to the clinical urgency to implement an interim

solution, the proposed implementation timeline is extremely ambitious, reflecting an approximate period of 18 months for roll out in 6 CHO areas.

The LINK system is currently being rolled out in all 4 CAMHS inpatient units. LINK is a web-based database system currently used by the Health Research Board (HRB) to collect, validate and report on data relating to Drug Treatment, Drug-Related Deaths, Mental Health and Disability Services. Full implementation for all 4 CAMHS inpatient units is expected by Q1 2024.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely**,**

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Sarah Hennessy
General Manager
National Mental Health Services