



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 Martin Browne.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

06th March 2024

PQ Number: 52508/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to provide an account of developments in mental health services in County Tipperary in 2023 in comparison with the existing services in 2022; the planned developments for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Brown

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

As Co. Tipperary crosses CHO areas 3 and 5, I have sought an update from the Head of Service in each area in order to respond to your Parliamentary Question.

Response from Head of Service for Mental Health Mid-West Community Healthcare (CHO3)

Existing Services

HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare has developed a comprehensive suite of Community Mental Health Services in North Tipperary. The following outlines an overview of services available:

General Adult Mental Health Services:

This service is provided in North Tipperary by two community mental health teams. These are based in:

- Dromin Road, Nenagh
- St. Mary's Health Centre, Thurles

These teams consist of multidisciplinary staff and are led by consultant psychiatrists. Both teams in North Tipperary have developed in line with 'Sharing the Vision' and the 'National Recovery Framework' incorporating new initiatives into their practice to meet the needs of the population.

Out of Hours Service

This service is accessible via the Community Mental Health Teams and also via Shannon Doc. The service is available from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. every day including all weekends and holidays. Mental Health Service-users who attend the Community Mental Health Teams can access this service. They may receive a home visit, appointment or phone support depending on the situation. In addition, advice and support and signposting can be given to people not known to Mental Health Services who are presenting for the first time.



No Of Out of Hours Contacts in North Tipperary				
Year	No of Contacts	Contacts by Telephone	Contacts By Assessments	No of Admissions
2020	3472	2768	704	94
2021	3506	2648	858	48
2022	3292	2338	954	34
2023	534	195	339	15

Old Age Psychiatry of Later Life services are provided through a multidisciplinary team based in Nenagh, with satellite clinics in Thurles and Roscrea. This team works closely with Older Persons Services and also access acute Mental Health beds as required through the Acute Psychiatric Unit in Ennis where there is a dedicated Older Persons unit. Psychiatry of Later Life is establishing a team base at St. Conlon’s Community Nursing Unit in North Tipperary for outpatient clinics and day hospital. The service plan is to progress this in 2024.

Supported Housing Project - Example of Integration in Practice

Mental Health Services have prioritised the strengthening of partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies, e.g. Focus Ireland and Thurles Lions Trust. The Thurles Lions Trust is an Approved Housing Body with a long history in the provision of supported accommodation in the Thurles area. The Thurles Lions Trust, Mental Health Services, Social Inclusion and North Tipperary County Council all work collaboratively to provide support to the service-users that reside in the Thurles Lions Trust supported housing developments, namely Mathew Bourke House and Monastery Close.

Mathew Bourke House, Thurles

- 14 self-contained apartments accessed from a communal corridor
- Supported, sheltered housing for adults with mental health challenges or intellectual disabilities or at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for 6 units of accommodation must be through the Homeless Action Team (HAT)
- “Housing First” initiative – more than just a roof – Care Plan and Exit Plan in place - to support the resident to regain independence and move on, with outreach support as required.

Monastery Close, Thurles

- 34 units acquired - 1st June 2019
- 23 two bed bungalows
- 11 one bed apartments
- Independent living in a town centre location
- Mix of elderly and middle aged, disability and able-bodied, social and private,

New Project – Stanwix Village, Thurles

Representatives from HSE Mid-West Social Inclusion, Mental Health Services, Thurles Lions Trust, and Tipperary County Council worked together to support a new development at the Stanwix Village Thurles, where the Thurles Lions Trust have brought on stream, a new supported housing development of 14 individual units and a 5 bedded residence. All stakeholders worked together to ensure that this development met the needs of services users and their families. Works were completed in August 2023 and the project was opened by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. HSE Mid West Community Healthcare, through Mental Health Services and Social Inclusion Services, along with



North Tipperary County Council, have contributed funding including for the employment of a social care worker to support service users as the service commences.

Intensive Tenancy Support Services

HSE Midwest Mental Health Services, in partnership with Focus Ireland, has introduced Tenancy Support Service to assist people to establish and sustain their tenancies and accommodation, thereby, reducing homelessness and inappropriate social admissions due to lack of safe appropriate accommodation. An evaluation of North Tipperary Intensive Tenancy Support Service was carried out in 2020, which found that this Service has contributed to a significant reduction in admissions and length of stay in Acute Units. The North Tipperary Service was recognised in the 2020 Health Service Excellence Awards as an exemplary project, delivering improved Health & Social Care Services. There are two (2) Tenancy Support Workers working in North Tipperary Mental Health Services; one in Nenagh and the other is based in Thurles Mental Health Team.

Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

The Mid West Community Mental Health Services in partnership with *North Tipperary Employability* have established the Individual Placement and Support Programme in North Tipperary. Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based programme developed to support people who use mental health services to source and maintain paid, mainstream employment. [Individual Placement and Support \(IPS\) - HSE.ie](#). IPS staff work as integral members of the Community Mental Health Services in North Tipperary.

Acute Mental Health Services

In line with *Sharing the Vision*, North Tipperary Community Mental Health Services operate a recovery-orientated service with the aim of providing care to individuals within their own community and limits the need for admission to hospital. Over the last four years our Community Mental Health Teams in North Tipperary provided 10,804 contacts to service users of which 191 service users required admission to an acute bed. This represents 2% of contacts to the North Tipperary Community Mental Health Teams. While the acute beds are not located with the County of Tipperary, all service users from North Tipperary who are assessed as requiring admission, are admitted to the Acute Unit in Ennis in the first instance, or alternatively 5B unit in UHL if the Acute Psychiatric Unit in Ennis is full. Furthermore, the North Tipperary Community Mental Health Teams have admission and discharge processes that ensures seamless provision of care during the service user's stay in the Acute Unit and following their discharge. In practice, this means that their own North Tipperary Community Mental Health Team provides the Multi-Disciplinary care, while they are an inpatient and continues that care when they are discharged back to their community in North Tipperary.

New Services

HSE Mid West Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in North Tipperary

There is now a second CAMHS team in North Tipperary, one in Nenagh and the other in Thurles. The Thurles CAMHS team was established in 2023. Both CAMHS Teams are multi-disciplinary and led by Consultant Psychiatrists. The Thurles CAMHS Team also provides clinical services in Roscrea.

The CAMHS Intellectual Disability Programme

The Mid West Mental Health Services established a Regional CAMHS Intellectual Disability Programme in Q4 2023. A Consultant Psychiatrist leads the CAMHS ID team and is supported by a Multidisciplinary Team. The CAMHS ID team works in partnership with the Children Disability Network Teams (CDNT) across the Mid-West Area including the North Tipperary CDNT.



Planned Developments

HSE Mid West CAMHS Hub

A CAMHS Hub is being established in Mid-West Community Healthcare. This Hub is part of a national clinical programme, and the Mid-West was selected as a pilot site in 2022. The Hub will be based in Limerick City and will serve the Mid-West Area. A CAMHS Consultant with the support of a Multi-disciplinary Team will lead the Hub. A CAMHS Consultant is being recruited. The timeline for commencement is dependent on successful recruitment of a consultant for the team

A New Mid West CAMHS Headquarters and Day Hospital

A major Capital plan for a new **Regional CAMHS Headquarters** and a **CAMHS Day Hospital** to be built on St. Joseph's Hospital Campus, Limerick, is at an advanced stage of development. The Capital Funding for this development was approved in 2023. The design plan for the development has gone for planning, with an anticipated a completion date of 2026. Children & Young people from North Tipperary will benefit from the development of this Day Hospital and will receive services there.

Response from Head of Service for Mental Health South East Community Healthcare (CHO5)

Haven House South Tipperary (formally operated as Glenville House)

Glenville House provided an 8-bed temporary location while the permanent facility was being developed since 19th June 2012 (following the cessation of admissions to St. Michael's Unit Clonmel). Haven House a new purpose built facility became operational on 7th March 2023 and is a 10 bedded unit. Haven House facilities enable service users to receive treatment in the community as an alternative to in-patient treatment in an acute psychiatric unit and reduces the length of acute in-patient hospitalisation using a residential model of service delivery. The official opening of Haven House by Minister Butler is scheduled for 2024 a date is yet to be confirmed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker

General Manager – Operations

National Mental Health Services