



Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 14.03.2024

PQ Number: 7728/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health what steps are being taken to provide more specialised facilities for eating disorder sufferers; what steps are being taken to provide more outpatient facilities; and what steps are being taken to provide eating disorder specialists in all public hospitals. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include:

- The development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service
- A stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need
- The development of a skilled, trained workforce

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. These consultant led multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. Today (March 2023) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

Between 2016 and 2022 over €8M has been invested in ED teams. 100 WTE's have been funded to establish Eating Disorders teams and over 80WTE's were filled on 11th November 2023 before a pause on recruitment was commenced within the HSE.

Integrated Care with acute hospitals: The NCPED has successfully secured additional funding from Women's Health Task Force to recruit medical/paediatric consultants and hospital dietitian sessions within acute hospitals to work with existing and future community eating disorder teams. The first hospital dietitian in paediatrics with dedicated sessions for eating disorders began in May 2022. The first 0.4 Consultant Paediatric post commenced with CHO4 CAMHS ED team from end Jan 2023 and second post commenced in CHO7 in October 2023. Discussion are at advanced stage for 2 adult physicians to commence in roles in CHO9 (Beaumont Hospital) and CHO6 (St. Vincent's University Hospital). Discussions are also in progress to recruit 2 further paediatric posts in CHO 2 and CHO 6. This additional skill set to teams is already proving effect and supports integrated care. The NCPED continues to work with other clinical programmes to train staff to recognise and treat people with eating disorders using best clinical Guidelines (MEED) and evidence based interventions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
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