



Ceannasaí Seirbhísí, Meabhairshláinte,  
Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte – MLM CHO8

Coimpléasc N. Brid, Bóthar Cheanannais,  
Baile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú A92 DRN0

Head of Mental Health Services  
Mental Health Service – MLM CHO8

St. Brigid's Complex, Kells Road,  
Ardee, Co Louth A92 DRN0

[www.hse.ie@hse.live](http://www.hse.ie@hse.live)

☎ 041 685 9221

✉ [CHO8.MentalHealth@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8.MentalHealth@hse.ie)

6<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Darren O'Rourke TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ Ref 32395/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason plans to establish a CAMHS service at Ashbourne primary care centre have stalled; if he will provide an update on plans for a CAMHS service in Ashbourne, including staffing complement and implementation timeline; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Ashbourne Primary Care services were deemed unsuitable to meet the needs of a Multidisciplinary Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services team for East Meath Ashbourne Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Louth Meath Mental Health Services have identified premises in Ashbourne to accommodate a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. HSE Capital & Estates are currently engaging with the developer around a suitable schedule of accommodation. Timeline for completion has not yet been established, but it is hoped this will commence in Q4 2024.

Vision for Change recommend eleven clinical and two admin staff per Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services team. Currently the team are running at 50% of this recommended staffing level due to the recruitment embargo over the past 12 months. In light of the recently released HSE pay and numbers strategy, backfilling of vacant posts remains not permissible at this time. Louth Meath Mental Health Services endeavor to fill all vacant posts across all Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services teams across Louth Meath as soon as permission to backfill vacant posts is granted.

I trust the above is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely

---

**Michael Buckley**  
A/Head of Mental Health Services