



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

141h April 2024

PQ Number: 11557/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if the eating disorder services model of care is to be updated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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. The Model of Care recommended a formal review process after 3 years. Since 2018 the full implementation of the programme has been delayed due to a lack of consistent funding annually and COVID Pandemic.

With 11 Eating Disorder teams in place, consistent data collected and learning from implementation we are now better placed to complete an evaluation of the programme but also to update the model of care to reflect current best practice. This does require a dedicated

budget and independent external evaluators to complete a review in a timely manner. We are working to identify a funding stream and resources to complete this large and complex piece of work.

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
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive