



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.

Date: 12.04.2024

PQ Number: 11560/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the staffing levels of specialist eating disorder teams by CHO area; what is being done to improve retention and recruitment within eating disorder teams; 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, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce. In the context of the significant physical morbidity associated with eating disorders, this Model of Care also recommends a strong integration between primary care, mental health services and medical teams, including the bridging of the acute hospital and mental health service divide through mutual clinical commitments and shared pathways.

As of March 2023 there are 5 CAMHS teams operating and 6 adult teams out of the recommended 16 teams in model of care. All consultant psychiatrist lead MDT are at various stages of development and resourcing. Since 2018 over 100 WTE's have been funded by Government to establish Eating Disorders teams and over 80WTE's were filled on 11th November 2023. 80% recruitment is a significant achievement by all involved with the current recruitment challenges especially for consultant psychiatrists and dietitians. The table below outlines the current development of the ten teams. At the end of 2023 there were 15.8WTE

posts unfilled with a full year funding requirement of €1.4m. As per CEO instructions these posts were decommissioned at year end and a number of these will form part of the Mental Health additional 2024 development requirement for which clarity is currently being sought

Eating Disorder team	March 2024
1. CAMHS ED CHO4	Operating since May 2019. In new building since 2023.
2. CAMHS ED CHO7	Operating since April 2018. Based in Cherry Orchard Hsp
3. Adult ED CHO6	Operating since November 2018 – Team due to move from acute hospital to new premises to deliver community outpatient services at Mount Carmel Hospital Campus in 2024. New premises will facilitate delivery of day programme.
4. Adult ED CHO9	Commenced in Jan 2023. Awaiting new premises to be retrofitted. Currently operating out of a number of smaller bases.
5. Adult CHO4	Commenced clinical service in Jan 2024. Premises currently been prepared for team. Seeing patients in CMHT buildings.
6. CAMHS ED CHO 2	Consultant appointed in September 2023. No current team base, working with estates to identify a suitable regional premises.
7. Adult ED CHO1 (2 Mini teams – Sligo/Leitrim and Cavan/ Monaghan)	Both have commenced a clinical service. Sligo team not funded to extend service to Donegal. Sligo – team premises will not be available until end Q2 2024. Cavan – Looking to identify a base that can accommodate the team.
8. Adult ED CHO5	Consultant recruited and will take up post in Q2 2024. Other MDT recruited have started and working with CMHTs to identify and assess people with eating disorders.
9. CAMHS ED CHO9	Team recruited and service commenced. Awaiting new premises to be retrofitted.
10. CAMHS ED CHO6	Operating – Team not fully funded. Awaiting additional posts to complete team. Team due to move to new premises to deliver community outpatient services at Mount Carmel Hospital Campus in 2024.

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.

Each Eating Disorders team is consultant lead with a range of disciplines from psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, dietitians providing a range of evidence based intervention. Full listing of recommended posts can be accessed in our MOC

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/resources/>

Training and education is a key pillar of this clinical programme that supports recruitment and retention of staff. We are providing staff with opportunities to receive high quality training and supervision in evidence based interventions. In addition there is a growing network of clinicians that can share learnings and support each other across teams and disciplines.

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