



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st May 2024

PQ Number: 21914/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the development of the model of care for ADHD in children and young people by the HSE; the timeline for completion; 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.

CAMHS provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams.

Mental health disorders are often described on a continuum of severity, ranging from mild to moderate to severe. A number of factors are taken into account when defining whether someone has a moderate to severe mental disorder and these include the diagnosis, formulation, the duration of the symptoms and level of functioning in daily living.

In practice the term “moderate to severe” means that the mental disorder is severe enough to cause substantial distress to the child or their family or others. The child or adolescent would have a significant impairment in functioning in various aspects of their life including development, family relationships, school, peers, self-care and play or leisure activities.

This list below gives some guidance on what constitutes a moderate to severe mental health disorder. However this is an operational guideline and not a clinical guideline and therefore it is not an exhaustive list. It is also important to note that not all children and adolescents will fit neatly into a diagnostic category

- Moderate to severe anxiety disorders
- Moderate to severe Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD/ADD)
- Moderate to severe Depression
- Bipolar Affective Disorder
- Psychosis
- Moderate to severe Eating Disorder
- Suicidal ideation in the context of a mental disorder.



The development of the Model of Care for ADHD in children and young people is a priority for the HSE in 2024. A Clinical Lead has been appointed to lead out on this development and once they have commenced in their role it will take 12 months to complete. The model of care will make recommendations in relating to service organisation and resource requirements.

Further information can be found in the CAMHS Operational Guideline available here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Braham', written over a light grey background.

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager
Child & Youth Mental Health