



Office of the Assistant National Director  
Access and Integration

St Lomans Hospital, Palmerstown,  
Dublin 20, D20 HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí  
Meabhairshláinte FSS

Ospidéal Naomh Loman  
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20  
D20HK69

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
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e:[PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**PQ Number: 45064/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason people with a condition (details supplied) are signed off from CAMHS at 18 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Mark Ward**

**Details Supplied:**

*The best advice supports that people living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) should not be transitioned from CAMHS to AMHS until 25 as opposed to 18 because of the recognised level of dysmaturity associated with the condition.*

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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.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a group of disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure and are associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. Children and young people with FASD who present with moderate to severe mental health issues are referred to their local community CAMHS mental health teams for assessment and treatment. Further detail can be found in the CAMHS Operational Guidelines (COG) which is available here: [CAMHS Operational Guidelines](#).

Currently CAMHS provide mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have moderate to severe mental disorders that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team. If an adolescent of 17 years requires a referral to adult mental health services, a transition plan within their Individual Care Plan (ICP) will be required. This should ideally begin at least 6 months before their 18th birthday. Not all adolescents require a transition plan, but it is essential that all are assessed for transition and that the outcome of the assessment of future need is recorded clearly. Enhanced Transitions is a key theme of the Child and Youth Mental Health Action Plan (due for publication in Q1 2025). This will work towards ensuring clear, seamless pathways for young people moving from CAMHS to adult mental health services (AMHS).

In 2022 the HSE developed a position paper on the Prevention of FASD which outlines 14 key actions for the HSE to be achieved within the next 5 years. This includes the development of a model of care



for FASD. This body of work is been led by the Clinical Lead for FASD Prevention at the HSE Alcohol Programme and the FASD Expert Advisory Group:

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/alcohol-programme/hse-position-on-prevention-of-fasd.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hennessy".

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**Sarah Hennessy**  
**General Manager**  
**Access and Integration: HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office**