



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
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Deputy Seán Canney
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

30th October 2024

PQ Number: 43092/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the procedures in place to transition a young person who is under CAHMS when they reach the age of 18 years, are turned over to the adult mental health services, where the only option is to refer the patient to accident and emergency and is then sent back to outpatients services without any support being offered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney

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 service 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 a multi-disciplinary mental health teams.

If an adolescent of 17 years requires a referral to adult mental health services, a transition plan within their 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.

Joint working between CAMHS and adult mental health services should be considered in the initial weeks of handover to aid a smooth transition from one service to the other. These services operate in a different way to each other and this can be a significant change for adolescents and their parent(s).

The adolescent's Consultant Psychiatrist and key worker will be responsible for initiating a handover to the adult mental health service and ensuring that appropriate information is shared in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act, 2018 and the consent of the parent(s).

The information required for a transition includes as a minimum a detailed referral letter or a copy of the ICP, a risk assessment, a record of all medication, details of any physical health needs, and a summary of all MDT interventions.



If there are any challenges during the transition process, this should be escalated to the Area Mental Health Management Team in the relevant CHO area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
Assistant National Director
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services