

30th July 2018

Deputy John Deasy, T.D,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 26953/18 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the contingency plans in place should consultant psychiatric posts in the south east not be taken up within a reasonable timeframe in view of the difficulty in filling such vacancies nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - John Deasy

Dear Deputy Deasy,

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. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Every possible option is being pursued in order to recruit Child and Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrists to the area. Advertisements have been placed in Journals both nationally and internationally to fill the posts on a temporary basis, pending the filling of the posts on a permanent basis through the Public Appointment Service.

In the interim, a range of different control measures have been put in place in order to ensure continuity of the service.

- Establishment of weekend Consultant Paediatric Psychiatry clinics in Waterford/Wexford. A locum arrangement has been put in place whereby an external Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist from Galway will hold clinics on Saturday and Sunday in Waterford.
- A consultant psychiatrist from CHO5 will also provide a total of 8 days per month cross cover to teams in Waterford and Wexford
- All medical agencies on the SLA Framework or Agency staff (Tier1 & 2) have been contacted to determine if they can provide locum cover
- The South East Community Healthcare Mental Health Service Management team are engaging with the private sector to explore options. Options being discussed include the provision of an "out of hours" service access to inpatient assessment beds and the provision of an outreach service to Waterford/Wexford.
- Wexford South CAMHS will be relocating from their current base at Slaney House Wexford to a newly refurbished location at Arden House, Wexford in the near future.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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- An NCHD has been employed to commence on Monday the 30th of August for Wexford north CAMHS to assist the consultant.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services