



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
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20th December 2019

Deputy **James Browne** TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 52734/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the way in which out-of-hours responses for child and adolescent mental health services have been expanded to date in 2019 by moving to the 7/7 model; the timeline for full transition to a 7/7 model for CAMHS; the details of CAMHS services in each CHO that provide 7/7 services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne

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.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health teams provide specialist mental health services to young people up to the age of 18 and operate currently on a five day a week basis. If services are to be developed outside of these hours it is likely that such an extension would be in line with adult services where the first step was to increase to 7 day services.

CAMHS inpatient services operate a 24/7 model currently. These services deliver tertiary level care and treatment to young people with severe and/or complex mental disorders associated with significant impairment and / significant risk to themselves or others such that their needs cannot be safely and adequately met in the community by outpatient CAMHS teams. Vision for Change recommends 100 in-patient beds nationally for all aged 0-18 years, in five units of 20 beds each. There are currently 74 CAMHS inpatient beds across four inpatient units in Galway Cork and Dublin. The new Children's Hospital due to open in 2021 will have an additional 20 beds. There are also plans for an additional 10 CAMHS Forensic Beds in the New Forensic Hospital due to open in 2020 bringing the total number of inpatient beds for CAMHS to 104.

All three Dublin paediatric hospitals provide a comprehensive liaison psychiatry service. Liaison Psychiatry teams are available in the 3 Dublin Paediatric Hospitals. In Temple Street Childrens University Hospital this service is provided in conjunction with the local mental health service for 24



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hours, 7 days a week. In Crumlin and Tallaght Childrens University Hospitals, the liaison psychiatry service is available Monday to Friday 9-5. Outside those hours children are assessed by the paediatricians and admitted to a paediatric ward.

The National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to the Emergency Department following Self-Harm is currently being extended to include the three paediatric hospitals in Dublin. Three Clinical Nurse Specialists one for each of the three Dublin Paediatric Hospitals are currently being recruited. The addition of a CNS in each of the three hospitals will improve the follow up and linkage to next appropriate care for children

For children who present to EDs, a child will be either assessed by a Non Consultant Hospital Doctor, who can then discuss the case with the CAMHS consultant on call, or if there is not CAMHS Consultant on call, the paediatric team will be advised to wait until the CAMHS consultant is available.

In Cork University Hospital, there is a liaison psychiatric nurse available Monday to Friday 9-5. This nurse is supported in her work by a Consultant from CAMHS. Out of hours an NCHD completes assessments and the CAMHS consultants provide input.

HSE Mental Health, working in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service, established the Your Mental Health Information Line in November 2019. This service is managed by the National Ambulance Service, operates on a 24/7 basis, and encompasses:

- (i) the provision of information to the public about, and signposting of callers to, the most appropriate national and local supports and services provided by the HSE and their funded partners specific to the query raised, and
- (ii) Where possible/required, direction of callers to the most appropriate existing helpline partners as required.

HSE Mental Health is currently working in collaboration with partners to develop a 24/7 text-based active listening service, and to pilot other e-mental health related digital solutions including counselling online, internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy, and telepsychiatry.

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

Yours sincerely,



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

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services