



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

23rd December 2019

Mr. James Browne T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 53502/19

To ask the Minister for Health the staffing levels of CAMHS in South County Wexford and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed that matter and the following is the position:

The CAMHS Wexford South Multi-Disciplinary Team comprises of staffing across a broad range of disciplines including:

- Consultant Psychiatrist – Vacant
- Registrar
- Senior Occupational Therapist
- Senior Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Social worker
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Dietician- Vacant
- General Practitioner- Contracted
- Administration

All vacancies are being managed through ongoing liaison with the National Recruitment Services. To date, mental health services have been unsuccessful in securing a Consultant Psychiatrist for South Wexford CAMHS sector. Every possible option is being pursued in order to recruit a Paediatric Consultant Psychiatrist to the area. There is a shortage of CAMHS consultants nationally. 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 addition to current resources, Consultants external to Waterford/Wexford are providing weekend clinics for emergency referrals. On weekdays, CAMHS teams continue to work within existing caseloads and have access to consultation with CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist by teleconference. Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Services key focus at this time is to secure appropriate consultant support and in the interim to continue to support the rest of the MDT team to maintain service provision as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare