



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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7th August 2019

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

PQ 29645/19 To ask the Minister for Health the status of efforts to develop a seven day per week service for CAMHS; the number of CAMHS teams now operating on such a basis; the CHOs in which they are based; 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 health 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.

In addition to the above the HSE National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to the Emergency Department following Self-Harm aims to ensure all patients presenting with self-harm receive an expert bio-psychosocial assessment. The Clinical Programme was the first mental health programme introduced. There is good evidence that people who self-harm are at increased risk of completing suicide, and if they can meet with a mental health professional following self-harm they are much more likely to engage with appropriate help and this will reduce the risk of suicide.

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.

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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. In addition all three Dublin paediatric hospitals provide a comprehensive liaison psychiatry service.

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