



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
T 01 6207304 R: [Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie](mailto:Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie)  
Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [sinead.reynolds@hse.ie](mailto:sinead.reynolds@hse.ie)

16/07 /2019

Deputy Pat Buckley TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

PQ 33802/19

Question:

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the implementation of the CAMHS advocacy model; and the CHOs in which it is available and utilised -Pat Buckley**

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

The HSE is committed to the development of recovery oriented services as outlined in 'A National Framework for Recovery 2018-2020' and recognises that the Service user's right to self determination and to have their voice heard is essential to this. At a policy level 'A Vision for Change' 2006 states that advocacy should be available as a right to all service users using mental health services in Ireland. While the Mental Act of 2001 sets a statutory requirement for Advocacy for adult service users, there is no provision or service currently for children using mental health services in Ireland. In response to this the organisation has a commitment to develop an Advocacy service for CAMHS.

The HSE national Mental Health services set up a service improvement project in 2018 to oversee the development of an Advocacy Service for CAMHS Service users. A tender process was held and a contract awarded to YAP Ireland, to pilot an independent advocacy service on an incremental basis across CAMHS Services. The Service commenced in the 'Merlin Park' Inpatient unit in Qtr 2, 2018 and was extended to all CHO 2 CAMHS community services in Qtr 4 2018. In quarter 2, 2019 the service has been extended to the 'Linn Dara Inpatient unit in CHO 7. The HSE have commissioned an independent evaluation of the service as part of the service improvement project to inform the further development of advocacy services within CAMHS.



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The national CAMHS advocacy steering group will make recommendations on developing a national model to provide advocacy to CAMHS service users in 2020 based on the evaluation outcomes on the current two sites providing the 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'.

Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services