



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

Monday, 17 June 2019

Deputy Clare Daly TD
Dail Eireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

PQ 22612/19: To ask the Minister for Health the measures he is taking to address the under-resourcing of CAMHS nationally and specifically the service in Swords, County Dublin in which several staff are working a three day week -Clare Daly

Dear Deputy Daly,

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 Swords CAMHS team currently employs 12.6 WTE multidisciplinary staff. There are currently 9 staff working full time. There is one staff member who works reduced hours of 3 days a week in line with the HSE's approved work schemes.

Two staff are currently job sharing in line with HSE's approved work scheme in relation to job sharing.

The team currently has 2 vacant posts of Senior Social Worker and Senior Speech and Language Therapist.

The CAMHS service is currently utilising the approved HSE recruitment process to fill these frontline vacancies in drawing from established panels and it is planned that these vacancies will be filled by August 2019. To further mitigate these frontline vacancies, interim temporary agency employments are also being pursued in order to provide continuity of existing service activity levels pending the permanent filling of these approved vacant posts.

The activity in Swords shows that referrals year to date KPI figure is 58, with 50 people being seen. In April, 71% of accepted referrals/re-referrals were offered a first appointment and seen within 12 weeks.

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The wait times are as follows:

0-3 months: 20

3-6 months: 9

6-9 months: 1

100% of urgent referrals to the Swords CAMHS Teams were responded to within three working days

While recognising the continued growing needs for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – demand for CAMHS services has increased by 24% since 2012, the HSE continues to seek to maximise the use of available resources to respond to the priority mental health needs of children and young people.

Successfully recruiting and retaining staff continues to present a challenge in mental health services. Measures taken to address this include the provision of funding to increase the number of educational places available for mental health nurses, increased clinical psychology trainee places and the introduction of new disciplines / workers such as peer support etc.

This recruitment challenge can also provide opportunities to deliver service improvements that are focused on increased productivity towards maximising service delivery.

Mental health services will continue to deliver a number of service improvement initiatives that will assist services and increase productivity and efficiency. These improvements will also be enabled by the development of a range of eHealth initiatives to support awareness and support improved responses to meeting mental health needs of the general population.

The funding available in 2019 provides for an agreed level of mental health services nationally. Where demand for services continues to exceed what can be supplied through the available funding level the HSE is required to manage within the available resources and will, therefore, prioritise services to those in greatest need.

In 2019, as outlined in the HSE National Service Plan, , Mental Health Services will continue to invest in CAMHS through increased staffing of community teams and enhanced day services to reduce admissions and length of stay of young people in acute units.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services

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