



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Ms. Mary Butler T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

18th November 2019

PQ 45830/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure all staff are trained in Children's First to address the needs of children being admitted to mental health services at University Hospital Waterford and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 45831/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to improve access to appropriate facilities for all child cases being admitted to mental Health services at University Hospital Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 45832/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure that children will not be admitted to the adult psychiatric unit at University Hospital Waterford and that appropriate care is provided to children in the appropriate setting

Dear Deputy Butler,

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 the matter and the following is the current position.

The 44-bed Department of Psychiatry (DOP) University Hospital Waterford is the designated approved centre for acute inpatient services for the counties of Waterford and Wexford.

The referral pathway for child admissions is with Eist Linn the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Inpatient Unit for the region - children who require admission would always be referred to this inpatient unit. In exceptional circumstances where deemed clinically required, the admission of children to adult inpatient units (e.g. University Hospital Waterford) does occur. These admissions are reported by South East Community Healthcare to the Mental Health Commission (MHC).

In the event and where clinically indicated that a child is required to be admitted to the DOP, University Hospital Waterford whilst awaiting a CAMHS inpatient bed. The approved centre is required to adhere to MHC rules and regulations pertaining to a Child admission. These will include:

- Ongoing Medical review by a CAMHS Consultant
- A Key Support Worker is allocated to provide support and supervision of the child

- Age Appropriate recreational activities are provided and supervised by a Registered Occupational Therapist.

Children First Training is mandatory for all HSE staff and is available to all staff on HSEland. The South East Community Healthcare (SECH) monitors national monthly completion statistics for Children First Training and seeks to ensure compliance across all disciplines.

Should you require any further information in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



David Heffernan
Head of Service Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare