



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

St Canices Hospital
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784494

9th December 2019

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

PQ 48954/19

To ask the Minister for Health the steps that have been taken to recruit staff for 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 current position.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Wexford South Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) comprises of staffing across a broad range of Medical, Nursing, Allied Health Professionals inclusive of Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy, and Support Staff.


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.

The key focus for Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Services 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.

I trust that this clarifies. Should you require any further information in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare