



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2020,  
Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number: 38107/20**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the implementation of the immediate priority to ensure that short-term additional supports are available for persons who are making the transition from CAMHS to GAMHS at 18 years of age given the issues and vulnerabilities that can prevail as outlined in Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 CAMHS Operational Guidelines document was published in 2019 and provides direction on how both inpatient and community CAMHS services operate (<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>)

Within the guidelines, section 4 outlines the steps that are taken in the transition of a young person from a CAMHS service to an adult service. Each case is approached based on the assessed needs of the individual. The guidelines stipulate that:

#### **4.23 Transition to Adult Mental Health Services**

4.23.1 If an adolescent of 17 years requires a referral to adult mental health services, a transition plan within their ICP will be required. This should ideally begin at least 6 months before their 18th birthday. Not all adolescents require a transition plan, but it is essential that all are assessed for transition and that the outcome of the assessment of future need is recorded clearly.

4.23.2 Joint working between CAMHS and adult mental health services should be considered in the initial weeks of handover to aid a smooth transition from one service to the other. These services operate in a different way to each other and this can be a significant change for adolescents and their parent(s).

4.23.3 The adolescent's Consultant Psychiatrist and key worker will be responsible for initiating a handover to the adult mental health service and ensuring that appropriate information is shared in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act, 2018 and the consent of the parent(s).



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
T 01 6207304 R: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

4.23.4 The information required for a transition includes as a minimum a detailed referral letter or a copy of the ICP, a risk assessment, a record of all medication, details of any physical health needs, and a summary of all MDT interventions. (See Appendix 3.8).

4.23.5 If there are any challenges during the transition process, this should be escalated to the Area Mental Health Management Team in the relevant CHO area.

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