



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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9th December 2020,
Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 38756/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons under 18 years of age who have presented with eating disorders by age and gender; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

This information is not routinely collected at National level. We collect data relating to referrals and activity data but this does not drill down into specific diagnostic information.

The HSE developed and approved a Model of Care for Eating disorders that creates specialist regional teams with skilled clinicians that can provide evidence based interventions collaborating with acute hospital physicians and GPs as required. Early intervention and evidence based treatment by multi-disciplinary specialist community eating disorder teams is recommended by the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders with a focus on both psychological and physical recovery. The Model of Care was launched in 2018 and continued implementation is vital to deliver access to high quality eating disorders in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

There are currently 2 Eating Disorder specialist community teams based in CAMHS, one in CHO4 Cork and Kerry Regional Eating Disorder Service CAREDS (operational since May 2019) and the other based in CHO 7 Linn Dara Community Eating Disorder Service LDCEDS (operational since April 2018).

The National Model of Care (MOC) for Eating Disorders aims to establish 16 teams (8 Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and 8 Adult) across the country to provide specialist eating disorder services serving populations of 500,000 and greater. The funding of and roll out of the remaining teams is critical to improve access to a high quality evidence based service. Planning for future roll out of additional services are currently being considered as part of the HSE national service plan 2021.

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



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Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services