

28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Deputy Holly Cairns**  
**Dáil Éireann,**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ Ref No: 24170/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if a CAMHS unit will be established in east County Cork.”**

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.

By way of background, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are provided by ten multi-disciplinary community based teams across Cork (8) and Kerry (2) supported by Eist Linn, CAMHS inpatient unit which is based in Bessborough, Cork.

Eist Linn, CAMHS Inpatient Unit, is a 16 bed facility registered with the Mental Health Commission which provides a specialist service in assessment and treatment of young people, under the age of 18 years, who present with severe emotional and behavioural disorders, where there is a likelihood of mental illness. Eist Linn serves the counties of Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and South Tipperary. All admissions to Eist Linn are based on clinical presentation and priority and not determined by geographical location of the referral. If a bed is not available in Eist Linn referrals are also made to the other CAMHS inpatient units around the country to ensure the young person is treated in an appropriate setting as quickly as possible. Admissions are prioritised based on clinical need.

Eist Linn provides a comprehensive, recovery focused approach and education programme, in a therapeutic environment, through a Consultant led multi-disciplinary team. Each young person is provided with an individual care plan which is reviewed on a regular basis to reflect the needs of the young person. A school programme is also provided as a significant element of a young person's daily structure.

Eist Linn places each young person at the centre of the service and the focus is on providing treatment to assist and improve the young person's condition so as to allow for a safe discharge home to the care of the local CAMHS team when it is clinically appropriate to do so.

Mental Health Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare do not have any immediate plans to establish an additional CAMHS unit in the Cork or Kerry region and any plans to do so would require approval and funding at a national level.

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**Acting Head of Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

