

Ms. Violet Anne Wynne
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

19th April 2021

Re: PQ 18022/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of dieticians and specially trained staff for eating disorders allocated to the CAMHS aftercare services in County Clare; the aftercare services available in Ennis for patients with eating disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question and wish to advise of the following.

The HSE CAMHS resource in County Clare is currently provided by two CAMHS multi-disciplinary teams serving two different catchment areas within the county. CAMHS is a service for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health difficulties which includes a remit for children and young people with eating disorders.

In addition to the clinical skills, knowledge and expertise possessed by qualified clinicians across all disciplines on these teams, in-service training is provided on an ongoing basis to all disciplines as appropriate and in so far as is possible and includes the clinical training provided through the National Clinical Programme-Mental Health- Eating Disorders Services (HSE).

Of note, staffing recommendations for community-based Multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams as outlined in A Vision for Change did not stipulate dieticians as part of the membership. CAMHS CHO3 has identified the significant gap in the assessment and treatment of young people with eating disorders posed by the lack the key contribution to be made by dieticians. This resource is not provided through Primary Care Services to this cohort of young people. Dieticians have also very relevant and valuable expertise to offer to children attending CAMHS for other mental health issues for example children and young people with food and nutrition needs associated with other mental health issues including side effects of certain medications.

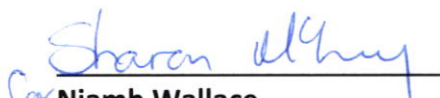
In recognition of this significant deficit in the services available to young people attending CAMHS particularly those with an eating disorders approval has just been granted to CAMHS CHO3 to recruit two dieticians for the service as part of the further development of the

service in the HSE National Service Plan 2021. This resource is very welcome and will serve CAMHS CHO3 as a whole including Clare CAMHS.

It is anticipated this service development will greatly improve the service experience and outcome for our service users, particularly those living with an eating disorder, not only in Clare but across the CAMHS CHO3.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon O'Leary". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Niamh Wallace
Head of Service,
Mid West Mental Health Services