



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Pa Daly,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

07th January 2022

PQ Number: 58556/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health his views in relation to Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone; and the way it applies to those with eating disorders. -Pa Daly

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

Most people can and do get better from eating disorders. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. Dedicated community-based eating disorder services, where multidisciplinary teams have specialist training, can provide evidence-based care and treatment.

In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. The MOC is the blueprint for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

Sharing the Vision A Mental Health Policy for Everyone (2020) sets out a to create a mental health system that addresses the needs of the population, it is based on the principles of recovery, early intervention, accessible and developed in partnership with service users and families. Recommendation 53 of the policy recommends that NCPED should continue to have a phased implementation and evaluation. It is listed a medium term goal.

The clinical programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (eight adult teams and eight CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. Currently, there are three teams in operation: two CAMHS teams (one serving Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare - CHO4 and the other serving Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare - CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and

treatment in the community. Funding has been made available in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). Following the recent budget Minister Butler released a statement that additional funding would be provided in 2022 for additional teams.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Evan Yacoub
Acting National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation

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