

4th February 2021

Mr. John McGuinness T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 3668 21

To ask the Minister for Health if Carlow CAMHS are now accepting new referrals following operational problems; and the way in which the problems were addressed.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

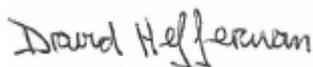
I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

All referrals to CAMHS in Carlow are considered by the appropriate sector Consultant Psychiatrist; and clinical decision made on the acceptance or refusal dependent on clinical information provided within the referral.

The operational issue in CAMHS Carlow has been addressed by the facilitation of Outpatient Clinics (OPC) in the Supported Training Centre in the short term. The Supported Training Centre is currently closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The SECH are in the process of reconfiguring services within St. Dymphna's Hospital, to allow additional space in the long term to CAMHS Carlow. It is envisaged that in the first quarter of 2021, services will reconfigure to allow work to be undertaken to this area to facilitate this additional space. In the meantime, the Supported Training Centre will be utilised to facilitate OPC assessments as decided by the sector Consultant Psychiatrist.

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

Yours sincerely,



David Heffernan
Head of Service Mental Health
South East Community Health Care