

Cormac Devlin (T.D.)
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

8th April 2021

REP 14299/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of the 16 specialist hubs nationwide which were to be opened between 2018-2023 that are fully operational with specialist multidisciplinary teams of clinicians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cormac Devlin

Deputy Devlin,

Thank you for PQ which has been passed to me for response.

To date there are 2 ED CAMHS teams in place serving CHO4 and CHO 7. The provision of additional posts to complete these teams will be progressed in 2021. Funding has now been released and recruitment has commenced.

The development of adult services has been slower. To date the pre-existing team at St. Vincent' University Hospital has had the recruitment of 2 WTEs. Full funding was provided in 2017 for this team. Community accommodation has been identified and it is anticipated that the team will have access to this in Q4 2021 on the grounds of the Old Mount Carmel Hospital. This will give a team base and facilities for outpatient and day programmes.

ED team	Inpatient	Outpatient
Linn Dara ED community Team	Access beds in Linn Dara Unit 8 Eating Disorder beds	Have a comprehensive community team based response based from Buttermilk Suite Cherry Orchard Community Hospital following evidence based interventions. Day programme under development.
CAREDS ED CAMHS Team CHO4	Access Eist Linn CAMHS beds Generic beds none dedicated to eating disorders	Have a comprehensive community team based response following evidence based interventions. Day programme under development. A number of groups now started online due to COVID.
Adult ED team CHO6	3 beds in St. Vincent's University Hospital	New community premises under development at Mount Carmel site, expected to be completed by Q4 2021.

ED Community Teams - Posts in place January 2021 from PFG funding allocated

Team	Posts filled to date	Posts required to complete the ED teams – 2021 (funding released and recruitment is underway)
Adult ED team CHO6/7/8(part) *ED team in place prior to NCPED with some posts	2 WTEs recruited (0.5 clinical team coordinator, 0.5 NCHD and 1 SR)	9.4 WTEs
CHO4 CAREDS ED team	13	1.1 (0.5 Team coordinator, 0.1 physician Acute hospital and 0.5 Senior SW)
CHO7/6/8 (part) ED Community ED team *ED team in place prior to NCPED with some posts	8	1.4 (0.3 paediatrician, 1 grade iii and 0.1 acute hospital Dietitian)

Budget

Since 2016 €5.7 million has been made available for Eating Disorder posts through programme for government funding. Of that €1.77 million has been invested to date in Eating Disorder Specialist Posts.

Eating Disorders	Full Budget	Remaining Budget	Filled WTE	Unfilled WTE	Total WTE
PFG 2016	1,641,470	170,242	17.80	3.10	20.90
PFG 2017	955,673	792,297	2.00	10.40	12.40
PFG 2018	1,502,359	1,364,407	2.00	14.30	16.30
PFG 2019	1,613,300	1,613,300		19.10	19.10
TOTAL	5,712,803	3,940,246	21.80	46.90	68.70

In 2020 mental health development funding was required to meet unfunded cost growth in mental health services. As a result nationally planned developments of eating disorder services had to be temporarily paused. Some of the paused funding was used for agency staffing (both medical and nursing) and to facilitate specialist placements for those with complex mental health needs including eating disorders. This was done in consultation with the Department of Health.

In 2021 the balance of €3.94 million is now available to be invested in specialist Eating Disorder services. The HSE will continue the recruitment process for all specialist posts required to progress the Eating Disorders Model of care in 2021. This funding will be used to complete the existing teams and recruit additional teams in CH09 Adult and CHO2 CAMHS.

We will be submitting additional funding request as part of 2022 budget progress to progress an additional 3 teams in 2022.

The HSE is working closely with NDTP, national Doctors Training and Planning to take measures to ensure trained clinicians in Eating Disorders are available to take up posts.

I thank you for your query and hope the above is of assistance to you.

Regards

Rhona Jennings,
Programme Manager,
Mental Health Clinical Programmes