



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht
Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú,
An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar
Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh
Fhailí.

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16th April, 2021

Mr. Pádraig O'Sullivan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question - 14505/21

To ask the Minister for Health the improved provision planned for CAMHS services in counties Louth and Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline response as follows.

In relation to recruitment and retention issues around Consultant posts, these are being positively addressed. We have two vacant permanent Consultant posts which are currently filled in a locum capacity. These posts are with the Public Appointments Services for imminent advertisement. Vacancies as they arise are processed for recruitment and HSE HR Recruitment and Policies are followed in terms of filling these vacancies. All CAMHS posts remain a priority for backfill in relation to sick leave, maternity leave, etc to ensure continuity of care.

In line with A Vision for Change we have now established 6 CAMHS Community Mental Health teams, three teams in Co Louth, and three teams in Co Meath.

The existing Dundalk CAMHS team have recently relocated from the Child & Family Centre, Drogheda to Earl Street, Dundalk, Co Louth. Plans for accommodation for the Ashbourne sector continue to remain a priority and the service is working with HSE Estates to secure appropriate accommodation.

We monitor the Key Performance Indicators on a monthly basis in relation to referrals and waiting times. In an effort to reduce the ADHD Assessments waiting lists, we introduced the QB diagnostic tool for ADHD and it is in the process of being rolled out to Louth Meath CAMHS. The QB Test is an essential part of the ADHD pathway and the results are used in conjunction with other ADD/ADHD assessment tools to aid clinical judgement.

The addition of CAMHS Advance Nurse Practitioner Liaison Service based in Our Lady of Lourdes is in place and has been proving to be a very successful intervention.

We have commenced a pilot group to work between CAMHS and Adult Mental Health services to aid a smooth transition from one service to the other. These services operate in a different way to each other and this can be a significant change for adolescents and their parent(s).

Where there are children and adolescents who present with complex needs this may involve joint working or shared care with other agencies, including HSE Primary Care, Children's Disability Network Teams and other agencies supporting children and adolescents. We continue to work with and improve our engagement with relevant inter-agencies and external agencies.

Formal mechanisms are in place to provide feedback such as Your Service Your Say: The Management of Service User Feedback for Comments, Compliments and Complaints, HSE Policy, 2017. This feedback is used to inform and improve service delivery. Your Service Your Say Feedback Leaflets are visibly displayed in all our CAMHS waiting areas.

Covid 19 has impacted on our ability to provide face to face interventions and therefore the teams in both Louth and Meath have adapted how they provide a service with a mix of both telehealth and face to face appointments. However we remain committed to delivering a high quality service to young people in Louth and Meath

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation