



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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7th April 2021,  
Deputy Mitchell,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

PQ

Number: 15674/21

PQ

Question:

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to increase funding for services that provide support for eating disorders by the end of 2021; if so, the amount of additional funding that will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denise Mitchell

Dear Deputy Mitchell,

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.

The HSE developed and approved a Model of Care for Eating disorders that provides a blueprint for the development of specialist regional teams with skilled clinicians that can provide evidence based interventions collaborating with acute hospital physicians and GPs as required. Early intervention and evidence based treatment by multi-disciplinary specialist community eating disorder teams are recommended by the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders with a focus on both psychological and physical recovery. The Model of Care was launched in 2018 and continued implementation is vital to deliver access to high quality eating disorders in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

The clinical program aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with agreed Model of Care 2018 and approved implementation plan over the coming years. To date



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3 teams has commenced recruitment and are delivering a service (CHO4 CAMHS, CHO 7 CAMHS and CHO6 adults).

The Department of Health and the HSE agreed the mental health budget for 2020 following the usual annual estimates planning process. In 2021, the HSE will invest €3.94 million in specialist Eating Disorder services and intend to progress the recruitment of eating disorder specialist posts. The HSE are committed to support the newly published model of Care and will continue to work with the DoH to deliver on the recommendations contained in Sharing the Vision where expanded services for those with eating disorders are advocated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Thomas O'Brien  
General Manager Mental Health Services