



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

27th July 2021,
Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ
Number: 24043/21

PQ
Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to honour the commitment in the Programme for Government to provide specialist eating disorder teams in each CHO area including inpatient services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

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. The following teams are in operation and delivering a service: CHO4 CAMHS, CHO 6 Adult and CHO 7 CAMHS. New teams are currently being recruited in CHO2 CAMHS, CHO4 adult and CHO9 adult. There are 10 remaining teams to set up, the estimated cost of each team is approximately 1 million euro serving a population of 500,000. Some teams may serve larger areas or have additional requirements.

Inpatient Care:

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the 4 existing CAMHS regional inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to



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determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. In addition to these beds the units in Merlin Park and Linn Dara have ring fenced dedicated beds for eating disorders – see table below.

As part of the new children's hospital development, there will be an additional 8 specialist eating disorder beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre. The Children's Hospital would be best placed to provide the detail of these costings.

Approved centre	CAMHS	Number of dedicated ED beds
Linn Dara	CAMHS	8 dedicated ED beds
Merlin Park	CAMHS	6 dedicated ED beds
Eist Linn Cork and St. Vincent's Hospital Fairview, Dublin	CAMHS	All beds are available for ED cases
National Children's Hospital	CAMHS	8 (in building phase)

Adult

Currently, there are 3 dedicated adult Eating Disorder beds in St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) for CHO6 area. In other parts of the HSE adult patients are currently admitted to local general adult mental health units and attend generic inpatient treatment programmes. Adult patients with an eating disorder can access inpatient psychiatric care in their local approved centre.

Vision for Change and Sharing the Vision identify the need to have ring fenced beds in designated approved centres that are linked to an adult hub team and where the approved centre is on the grounds of an acute model 4 hospital. In total 23 inpatient beds are planned for.

There are currently 3 designated beds in SVUH for eating disorders, for the population served this number is due to increase by 50% to 6 beds. Plans are with the CHO and SVUH to meet this requirement. Locally they are working with estates to establish the cost.

Across the rest of the country adult beds in Galway, (5) north Dublin (5) and Cork (5) are required. The Model of care recommends that a short term bed based in Kilkenny and Limerick. The MDT team will follow the patient into inpatient psychiatric beds. It is expected that there will be a reduction in demand once outpatient and day services are developed.

Currently Mental Health Services are not in a position to report on expenditure by service category. The current financial reporting system is aligned to Annual Financial Statement type (i.e. Nursing pay, Drugs & Medicines etc) and does not align to the services and sub-services in operation.

The Future Health Report identified the financial and service information systems of the Health Service as not fit for purpose. In order to address this, over 200 legacy financial systems will be moved to a Single Integrated Financial and Procurement Management System (IFMS). This process is now underway and the IFMS project is currently in the detailed design phase.



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When the IFMS system is fully implemented, Mental Health will be in a position to report on expenditure by service category however we are currently not in a position to do so.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director
Head of Operations