



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Cormac Devlin,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

08<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**PQ Number: 54133/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if a group (details supplied) will be included as part of the advisory group to the national eating programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Cormac Devlin**

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Dear Deputy Devlin,

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.

In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. The MOC is the blueprint for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

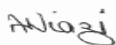
The clinical programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (eight adult teams and eight CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. Currently, there are three teams in operation: two CAMHS teams (one serving Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare - CHO4 and the other serving Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare - CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community. Funding has been made available in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). Following the recent budget Minister Butler released a statement that additional funding would be provided in 2022 for additional teams.

The National Oversight and Implementation Group meets monthly and is chaired by the National Clinical Lead. Membership comprises of clinical leadership from within the individual teams, the national programme office, representation from nursing office and Health and Social Care Office together with our partners Bodywhys. In line with the MOC the programme has regular meetings with each CHO to progress the implementation of the programme at a local level.

BodyWhys is a partner organisation in the implementation of the model of care and is represented on the oversight and implementation group. Bodywhys is recognised as the Eating Disorder Association in Ireland representing the voices of people with eating disorders and their families. At the monthly meetings an update is provided from Bodywhys which includes feedback from people using support services and attending the PiLar support programme.

Dr. Michelle Clifford, National Clinical Lead for Eating Disorders had a meeting with representatives of CARED on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to hear more about their experiences and views. The HSE have expressed that this feedback is be very valuable to the oversight and implementation group. A follow up meeting is planned for December. The NCPED receives information and feedback from service users and parents on a regular basis at team level via formal evaluation forms and also through the national office email address. This is all valuable information and will inform any evaluation of the programme.

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Amir Niazi**  
**National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health**  
**Clinical Design and Innovation**