



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAI
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach | Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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3rd November 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 50906/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development of an eating disorder service for adults in the region of counties Cork and Kerry; the numbers of whole-time equivalent staff being employed; the specialties they represent; and the planned location of the hub.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

By way of background, in January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care (MOC) for Eating Disorders 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 model of care focuses on the development of a National Eating Disorder Network, with specialist services coordinated through 8 regional eating disorder hubs with Cork identified as a 1 of the 4 designated major hubs for this Service Development.

Under the Programme for Government funding was secured and approved for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare to establish 1 specialist CAMHS eating disorder team and 1 specialist adult eating disorder team.

In relation to the CAMHS eating disorder team for the Cork hub, funding was secured in 2018 to allow for the recruitment of a dedicated multidisciplinary team. Following a successful recruitment campaign, CAREDS (CAMHS Regional Eating Disorder) team became operational in May 2019 and are based in St Mary's Health Campus, Guarranabraher Cork.



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In relation to the adult eating disorder team for the Cork hub, funding was secured in 2021 to allow for the recruitment of a dedicated multidisciplinary team. This funding allows for the recruitment of 13.4wte posts comprising of the following disciplines:

Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist	1.2
Senior Registrar	1.0
Registrar	0.5
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3.0
Senior Social Worker	1.0
Senior Clinical Psychologist	2.0
Senior Occupational Therapist	1.6
Senior Dietician	1.0
Clinical Specialist Dietician	0.1
Grade IV	2.0

Recruitment for these posts was initiated earlier this year and a number of campaigns are underway at this point to recruit the staffing required for this specialist team. A four-year implementation plan has been approved to allow for phased recruitment and training. The availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in mental health services where demand outstrips supply in both the national and international contexts.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare