



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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12th October 2021
Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 46282/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the way in which HSE has spent and will spend the €3.94 million allocated on specialist eating disorder services in 2021 - Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

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.

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

The Clinical Programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. Between 2016 and 2019, €5.7 million has been made available for Eating Disorder posts through programme for government funding.

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.



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Funding was released in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). The recruitment process for these teams is well advanced. Consultant Psychiatrists' posts have been approved for recruitment and the Multi – Disciplinary Team members are also in the process of being recruited. Suitable premises have been identified in the CHO's and it is anticipated that these additional Eating Disorder teams will be in place by year end.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services