



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

06th May 2022

PQ Number: 20539/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the inpatient services that are available for children under the age of 13 years who have being diagnosed with avoiding restrictive food intake who live outside CHO catchment areas with 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.

A key aim for the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders Services is improving access to assessment and treatment for people with eating disorders in Ireland. The National Clinical Programme remains committed to supporting the delivery of community specialist eating disorder teams and funding is available in 2022 for continued progress.

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) – is the general mental health service for children and adolescents, which is not an exclusive eating disorder treatment team. There are personnel within the CAMHS team that have the expertise to make an assessment of an eating disorder, and where there is low to moderate risk, treat the person within the team.

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the CAMHS inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. During ARFID treatment, a variety of therapies, services and interventions may be used and may involve a number of approaches.

There are 4 CAMHS Units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre, Dublin, St Josephs Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara Approved Centre's. There are plans for an Eating Disorder Unit in the new National Children's Hospital which will provide 8 additional beds.

Two CAMHS Inpatient Units, Linn Dara in Dublin and Merlin Park in Galway admit children under the age of 13 years. Linn Dara has provided treatment to a number of children with a diagnosis of ARFID.

Referring to the Appropriate CAMHS Inpatient Unit

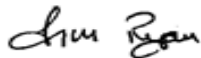
A per the CAMHS Operational Guideline 2019, when a local CAMHS Inpatient Unit is unable to offer a bed due to capacity issues, the referring Consultant Psychiatrist may, with parental consent, make a referral to other CAMHS Inpatient Units around the country. Referrals from outside catchment areas will be considered when the local unit cannot offer a bed. These referrals are prioritised based on clinical need. This process is supported by weekly communication between the four regional CAMHS Inpatient Units and the HSE National Mental Health Operational Management Team.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

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