



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 21197/22 - To ask the Minister for Health his views on the adequacy of existing mental health supports for children in the Louth and east Meath area; if he will identify those supports; if his attention has been drawn to the significant waiting lists for these essential services; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

CAMHS (up to 18yrs) (One Team provides Psychiatric services to a population of approx. 100,000 as per Vision for change). Louth Meath Mental Health Services have six Consultant led multidisciplinary teams as follows:

#### ***Louth CAMHS***

- South Louth/East Meath (ELMs Team) – Based in Grey Building, St Mary's Campus, Dublin Road, Drogheda
- North Louth - Based in Earl House, 13/14 Earl Street, Dundalk, Co Louth
- Louth South - Based in Child & Family Centre, St Mary's Campus, Dublin Road, Drogheda

#### ***Meath CAMHS***

- Meath South Ashbourne – Based in Hazel House, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co Meath
- Meath North - Based in Hazel House, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co Meath
- Meath South (Trim) - Based in Trim Primary Care Centre, Knightsbridge Village, Longwood Road, Trim, Co Meath.

Louth Meath Mental Health Services (LMMHS) monitor the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) on a monthly basis in relation to referrals and waiting times. In an effort to reduce the ADHD Assessments waiting lists, we introduced the QB diagnostic tool for ADHD Assessments.



The QB Test is an essential part of the ADHD pathway and the results are used in conjunction with other ADD/ADHD assessment tools to aid clinical judgement. To also assist in the reduction of the ADHD waiting lists two Advanced Nurse Practitioner posts have been approved.

LMMHS are currently rolling out a CAMHS waiting list initiative which is funded for six months. Recruitment and retention issues are a key factor in trying to maintain full compliance of MDT. Limited access to inpatient beds was exacerbated recently by the reduction of beds in Linn Dara. Under Vision for Change, CAMHS Staffing is being prioritised for development posts in 2022.

LMMHS are funding a CAMHS Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) post based in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. A further approval was received for the addition of a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) post to work alongside the ANP to extend and improve this joint collaboration between the CAMHS Liaison Service and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

The Public Appointments Service held a competition for two vacant permanent CAMHS Consultant posts (currently filled by Locums) and successfully panelled two candidates for these posts. These are now being progressed.

A Speech & Language Therapists Post is approved and is currently being progressed through the National Recruitment Service (NRS). A new development post was approved and created within Louth Meath Mental Health Service.

A Principal Psychology Manager commenced in January 2022. She will address existing Psychology gaps and Psychology therapies within the General Adult, Psychiatry of Old Age and the CAMHS system.

There are two Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) teams in Louth Meath CAMHS who provide full DBT programs including individual therapy, weekly multi-family skills group and telephone skills coaching, DBT training is on-going. This training assists the teams in adapting their programs for dysregulated and suicidal adolescents. The introduction of DBT teams to CAMHS has reduced presentation to hospital emergency departments for clients who are actively engaged in DBT.

The population of Louth Meath has increased, coupled with increased deprivation and post Covid issues. Statistics show a 30% increase of New Patient Referral to Louth Meath CAMHS. Supports are required around resources namely recruitment and retention and we are working closely with our HR colleagues, both at local and national level to progress this process.

In the case of the Meath South Ashbourne team, suitable accommodation has proved difficult to source but remains a priority for Louth Meath Mental Health Services and we are actively working with Estates colleagues in this regard.



Further changes in both population and demographics are likely to be revealed following update of the recent census.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation