



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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2nd February 2022

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2,

PQ ref 1170/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if the two vacant CAMHS consultant posts in County Cork have been filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 1171/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to recruit an additional CAMHS consultant for the north Cork area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Cork have eight community-based teams. This requires eight consultant positions as well as nursing staff, occupational therapists, social workers and other posts. There is current one vacant permanent CAMHS Consultant post amongst these teams which is currently filled on a temporary basis pending permanent recruitment. In addition, we have received funding for a further CAMHS Consultant post in North Cork to address the Waiting Lists for CAMHS service in North Cork and improve access for young people to the service. There are on-going efforts to fill these posts and the service continues to plan flexible ways to fill these vacancies.

Cork CAMHS, in common with all CAMHS services nationally, has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining the services of CAMHS doctors in recent years. However, there is currently a serious shortage of CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrists not only in Ireland but internationally. Intensive work is on-going to resolve recruitment issues and to fill the vacancies in Cork. This includes repeated advertising of posts and also the use of recruitment agencies who have contacts across Europe and beyond.

In the interim, despite the difficulty, the HSE is working to provide the best possible service with the staff available. A key focus is to manage the clinical risks and to prioritise referrals accordingly. Referrals are prioritised according to their acuity and severity. Essentially young people and children who have psychosis, severe depression and high-risk behavioural issues or eating disorders are generally seen within 24 hours.



Management in Cork Kerry Mental Health Services have been taking every measure to acquire the necessary resources, clinical and otherwise to ensure a quality service for the children of Cork going forward. We will continue our efforts to recruit appropriately trained medical personnel and explore all possible alternative arrangements to meet the needs of those in need of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,



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