



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources  
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John Lahart, T.D.

8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

**PQ ref 3809/22 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to expand the successful weight management service provided by HSE throughout Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – John Lahart**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

The Model of Care for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Ireland was launched on World Obesity Day, 4th March 2021. It was developed in 2020 by the multi-disciplinary Working Group of the Obesity National Clinical Programme on recommendations in the Healthy Weight for Ireland Obesity Policy and Action Plan (2016).

The aim of the model of care is to outline the spectrum of best practice care and services for overweight and obesity management, ensuring the right care, in the right place at the right time. Services are outlined that support early identification, brief advice with signposting and referral to specialist services across community and hospitals. The staffing and training needed, along with the infrastructure required to deliver the model of care in a phased manner over a 10 year period is outlined in the document. Population level public health interventions (policy, legislation, environmental), cross sectoral actions and initiatives to prevent overweight are not included in the scope of the document, but are referenced as key enablers for addressing the challenge of overweight and obesity at population level. When fully implemented, the Model of Care will ensure that an end-to-end approach to the prevention and treatment of overweight and obesity is adopted in health services.

The HSE is currently funded to expand the following weight management services in Ireland in line with the Model of Care:

1. Level 1b Children and Young People: Community Weight Management Services for Children and Young People (funding via Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme)  
In two CHOs (CHO 7 and CHO 5) a multidisciplinary weight management service for children and young people is being established in 2022. Each team will be aligned to and support the childhood obesity prevention component of Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme in the respective CHOs.
2. Level 2 Adults: Community Specialist Ambulatory Care (funding via Sláintecare Enhanced Community Care Programme)

Dietitians will deliver behavioural weight management group programmes to support adults living with obesity and complications across 96 Community Health Networks, commencing in 2022.

As part of the Sláintecare Scheduled Care Transformation Programme expansion of the following weight management services is being planned subject to funding:

3. Level 3 Children and Young People: Tertiary Care Specialist Obesity MDT

Implementation of a specialist multidisciplinary team in one site nationally at Children's Health Ireland to treat children and young people with severe and complex obesity.

4. Level 3 and 4 Adults: Acute Specialist Ambulatory Care and Specialist Hospital Care including bariatric surgery

Implementation of three specialist multidisciplinary teams in Saolta Hospital Group, Ireland East Hospital Group and South/South West Hospital Group to treat adults with severe and complex obesity.

To access the Model of Care for Management of Overweight and Obesity click here [Model of Care - HSE.ie](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah O'Brien, National Lead  
HSE Healthy Eating Active Living Programme