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Deputy Mark Ward, Dail Eireann, Dublin 2.

23rd January 2022

PQ Number: 63184/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the €1.5 million put in place to develop three eating disorder teams raised during promised legislation on 14 December 2021; when they will be in place; the services that will be provided; the areas in which they will be located; if this €1.5 million will be sufficient for the delivery of three eating disorder teams; 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.

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.

The clinical Programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (eight adult teams and eight CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. 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. Funding was made available in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). Following the recent budget Minister Butler released a statement that additional funding would be provided in 2022 for additional teams.

Based on the information provided by Department of Health funding has been allocated for an additional 25.6 posts. They will deliver a community ED specialist team serving a defined regional area and in line with the HSE approved Model of Care including evidence based interventions.

СНО	Team	Location	No. Posts funded
1	Adult Mini hub	Sligo	3.2
1	Adult Mini hub	Cavan	3.2
5	Adult Team	To be confirmed	9.7
9	CAMHS Team	Dublin North City	9.5

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

Yours sincerely,

Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health Clinical Design and Innovation