



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

11th August 2022

PQ Number: 41530/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the national review into CAMHS; and when the review will be published - 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.

By way of update, as you are aware, the Report on the Look-Back Review into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in South Kerry, also referred to as the 'Maskey Report', was published on the 26th January, 2022.

Following this the HSE stood up a National Oversight Group to oversee, monitor and report on the implementation of the Maskey Report. The National Oversight Group is jointly chaired by the Chief Operations Officer and Chief Clinical Officer and provides regular progress reports to the HSE Board's Safety and Quality Committee.

The Maskey Report contains 35 recommendations covering a broad range of areas such as re-establishing trust in CAMHS, governance of the service, delivery of clinical services, improved clinical practice and the use of information and communication technology to support the delivery of services.

In order to provide assurance to those who use CAMHS, the HSE's National Oversight Group commissioned a number of national audits in relation to prescribing practice, compliance with the HSE CAMHS Operational Guidelines and research on service user and key stakeholders experiences of CAMHS.

Expert audit Group – Prescribing practice: Independently chaired by Dr Collette Halpin, an expert team has been established to conduct an audit of prescribing practice, which also includes Dr Imelda Whyte, nominated by the College of Psychiatry, and Dr Suzanne McCarthy, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy Practice, UCC. This audit is currently underway with all CAMHS teams nationally and the expert team expects to report on this in Q4 2022.



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CAMHS Operational Guideline: A national audit of compliance with the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019) is being commissioned at present and this will take 6 months to complete from the date of commencement. This is due to commence in Quarter 4, 2022.

Service user and key stakeholder experience: Engagement of an academic partner to conduct qualitative research into CAMHS experiences has been completed. The research methodology for this audit strand will require ethical approval and the process for securing same is underway. It is expected the research into the experiences of children and young people attending CAMHS, their families, referrers and other key stakeholders can be completed within six months from confirmation of ethical approval.

As outlined above these national audits are at varying stages of implementation and are all being independently carried out. Information from these planned national audits will guide our continued efforts to enhance youth mental health services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hennessy".

Sarah Hennessy
General Manager
National Mental Health Services