



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**PQ Number: 30676/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time staff by job title working in each eating disorder teams; the number of vacancies by job title currently in each eating disorder teams; when each of these vacancies will be filled in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality and morbidity within mental health and they pose significant health, social and economic cost to people with eating disorders, to their families and to society. Early intervention, evidence based care, and consistent support make a profound difference to the clinical and personal recovery of people who are affected by eating disorders, including to those in adolescence when so many eating disorders begin.

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. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service, a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce. In the context of the significant physical morbidity associated with eating disorders, this Model of Care also recommends a strong integration between primary care, mental health services and medical teams, including the bridging of the acute hospital and mental health service divide through mutual clinical commitments and shared pathways.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence based treatment from ED trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the

community. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. There are currently 3 eating disorders (ED) specialist teams in operation, 2 CAMHS teams serving Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO4) and Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. CAMHS ED team staffing is recommended at WTE 14.4 per 500,000-600,000. Adult ED Team staffing is recommended at WTE 13.4 per 500,000-600,000.

Since 2016 over €8 million has been made available for Eating Disorder posts through programme for government funding. This has resulted in the set-up of the 3 existing Eating Disorder teams and to progress recruitment for the 2nd phase of teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). This 2nd phase of teams are in advanced stages of recruitment and set up to establish a high quality service. The 2022 funding (release April 2022) will be used for the continued investment in specialist Eating Disorder posts including a 3rd phase of specialist community team development in CHO5 Adult, CHO1 Adult and CHO 9 CAMHS.

As a NCPED we can report on our 3 ED teams that are currently operational and the 3 teams at advanced stages of recruitment. This is a point in time report and is subject to daily change. Vacant posts refer to posts where by funding is available and recruitment is outstanding. It does not include posts whereby funding is available, recruitment is complete and where local vacancies exist including those on sick leave/maternity leave or those on reduced working hours.

CAMHS and Adult eating disorder teams are clinically led by consultant psychiatrists and therefore these are pivotal posts to deliver these services. The recruitment of consultant psychiatrists to all HSE mental health services remains challenging and is contributed to by factors not unique to eating disorder teams. The NCPMH is continuing to work closely with NDTP, National Doctors Training and Planning, to take measures to ensure trained clinicians in Eating Disorders are available to take up posts. Training posts are available for higher specialist trainees in adult and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in existing eating disorder teams.

#### CHO6 Adult ED team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	0.8	0	
Consultant Psychiatrist	0.5	0.5	Start August 2022
NCHD	2	0	
Consultant Physician	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with SVUH to create 1WTE
Principal Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Psychologist	0.5	0	
Senior Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Senior Social worker	0.5	0.5	Awaiting backfill to fill the post
Senior Dietitian	1	1	In recruitment

Senior Dietician	0.6	0	
Senior Dietitian (Acute Hospital)	0.1	0	
Senior OT	1	0	
Senior Occ Therapist- Inpatient	0.2	0	
Art Therapist	0.2	0	
Creative Therapist	1	0	Recruitment to commence July 2022
CMHN	1	1	To be advertised in July
CNS	2	2	To be advertised in July
Clinical Team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Internally Advertised June 2022
Admin grade 4	1	0	
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	1	To be advertised
Grade IV Administrator	0.5	0.5	Interviews held 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022,

#### CHO 4 Adult ED Team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Grade V Administrator	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
CNS	1	1	In recruitment
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	1	Successful candidate withdrew re - Advertised : no applicants
Hospital Dietitian	0.1	0.1	In discussion with CUH
NCHD	0.5	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Dietitian	1	1	Expressed to panel
Senior Registrar	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Consultant Medical	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with CUH to create WTE1.0
Senior OT	1	0	
Senior Creative Therapist	0.1	0	Changed to 0.1 dietitian
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0.5	Internal recruitment

### CHO9 Adult ED team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	Start date mid July 2022
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	0	
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.3	0.3	In discussion with acute hospital
Senior Dietitian (Hospital)	0.1	0.1	As above
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0.5	To be recruited internal
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	0	
Dietician Senior	1	1	
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Social Worker Senior	1	0	
Senior Registrar/NCHD	1.5	0	

### CHO4 CAMHS Eating Disorder Team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	
NCHD	1	0	
NCHD	0.5	0.5	
Clinical team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Local internal recruitment
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
CNM2	1	0	
Grade 4	1	0	Awaiting start date
Dietician Senior	1	1	0.6 recruited awaiting start date
Dietician Senior	0.2	0.2	In discussion with CUH
Consultant Physician & Paediatrician	0.6	0.4	In discussion with CUH
Social Worker Senior	0.5	0	
Senior SLT	0.5	0	
Senior OT	1	0	

**CHO7 CAMHS ED**

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	0	
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with CHI Tallaght
Senior Dietitian (Hospital)	0.2	0	
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0	
Clinical Nurse Manager 2 (Mental Health)	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
Dietician Senior	1	0	
Occupational Therapist Senior	1	0	
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Social Worker Senior/Family Therapist	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Manager 1 Mental Health	1	0	
Senior Registrar	1	0	
Basic grade SW	1	0	
Senior Registrar	0.5	0	

**CHO2 CAMHS ED**

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Grade IV Administrator	1	1	
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0	Changed to 0.5 OT
CNM	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.2	0.2	
Consultant Child Psychiatrist	1	1	No applicants
NCHD	1	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior OT	0.5	0	
Senior Dietician	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	

An estimated 188,895 Irish people will experience an eating disorder at some point in their lives (based on epidemiological projections). Approx. 1,757 new ED cases develop each year in Ireland in the 10-49 age group. Females are at least 2-3 times more likely than males to develop an eating disorder. Since the onset of the COVID pandemic there has been a significant rise in presentations of eating

disorders across health care settings in Ireland. This is a similar pattern being reported internationally. Children, adolescents and adults are presenting more medically unwell with more severe clinical presentations than prior to the pandemic. Referral rates to existing community eating disorder teams have significantly surpassed predicted demand and capacity estimates made prior to the pandemic. The NCPED recently successfully secured funding to recruit medical and paediatric consultants within acute hospitals to work with existing and future community eating disorder teams.

Given this increase in demand a review of the Model of Care is planned during 2022/23. The outcomes of this review will influence the ED teams' requirements from 2024 onwards. Once completed we can update the staffing requirements by team.

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

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Amir Niazi**  
**National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health**  
**Clinical Design and Innovation**  
**Health Service Executive**