



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

5th July 2022

PQ Number: 31819/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the key performance indicators reported to him in respect of the child and adult mental health service; and his views on the throughput of patients, the level of the services delivered and the pattern of discharges - Richard Bruton

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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.

The HSE's Performance Assurance Report (PAR) provides an overall analysis of key performance data from Divisions, such as Acute, Mental Health, Social Care, Primary Care, Health & Wellbeing, Finance and HR. The activity data reported is based on Performance Activity and Key Performance Indicators outlined in the current National Service Plan.

The PAR is part of the performance assurance process overseen by the National Performance Oversight Group (NPOG). It monitors performance against planned activity, as outlined in the NSP. The PAR also provides an update to the Department of Health on the delivery of the NSP. The latest reports are available at the following link

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/>

Key Performance Indicator Metadata

KPI Metadata templates are completed for all National Service Plan metrics and provide the most up to date information relating to KPIs. These include information such as definition, rationale, reporting frequency, and data source.

See link hereunder for KPI metadata for Mental Health.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/kpis/2022%20mental%20health%20nsp%20metadata.pdf>



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Performance Monitoring and Reporting of CAMHS Services

As part of the HSE performance reporting cycle, there is monthly reporting on CAMHS activity in Key Performance areas. Latest available draft data on CAMHS services indicate the following:

- 4, 003 children on Wait list – 134 less than March figure of 4, 137
- April - 94.5% of urgent referrals responded to within 3 working days (same as prev. month) which is above Target of >90%
- 1, 781 referrals (including re-referred) received by CAMHS in April
- YTD 7, 920 referrals received, - a 30.1% increase on target of 6, 089, and 5.2% increase year to date versus same period last year
- 96.8% of new or re-referred cases were seen within 12 months in community CAMHS services YTD April 2022
- 3935 discharges y.t.d. to end April

At national level, monthly engagement meetings are held with each CHO area in order to address areas of operational performance.

Mental Health		Reporting Period April 2022				
KPI No.	Performance Activity / KPI	Reporting Level	Target/ Expected Activity YTD	Activity YTD	% Var YTD V Tgt/EA YTD	Apr
CAMHS						
MH5	Admissions of children to Child and Adolescent Acute Inpatient Units as a % of the total number of admissions of children to mental health acute inpatient units.	National	>85%	96.6%	13.7%	84.2%
MH57	Percentage of Bed days used in HSE Child and Adolescent Acute Inpatient Units as a total of Bed	National	>95%	99.8%	5.1%	99.3%



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	days used by children in mental health acute inpatient units					
MH6	% of accepted referrals / re-referrals offered first appointment within 12 weeks by Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams	National	≥80%	74.3%	-7.1%	71.1%
MH7	% of accepted referrals / re-referrals offered first appointment and seen within 12 week by Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams	National	≥80%	70.5%	-11.9%	67.1%
MH48	%. of new (including re-referred) child/adolescent referrals offered appointment and DNA in the current month	National	≤10%	6.0%	-40.1%	5.9%
MH72	% of accepted referrals / re-referrals offered first appointment and seen within 12 months by Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams excluding DNAs	National	≥95%	96.8%	1.9%	95.6%
MH73	% of urgent referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams responded to within three working days	National	≥90%	91.7%	1.9%	94.5%
MH43	No. of child / adolescent referrals (including re-referred) received by mental health services	National	6,089	7,920	30.1%	1,781
MH46	No. of new (including re-referred) child/adolescent referrals seen in the current month	National	3,631	3,580	-1.4%	850



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Investment in CAMHS Services

There has been significant investment in CAMHS over a number of years to meet increased demand and to improve services for children and young people with mental health difficulties. Currently there are 73 multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams in place providing important assessment and treatment services.

Within the past six years, €22.6m of development funding has been directed to enhance CAMHS services. Since 2013, an additional 18 CAMHS teams have been established and close to 300 additional Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts added to the workforce, supporting the provision of multi-disciplinary health care and best practice therapeutic interventions.. Capacity of existing teams has been enhanced – reflected in a 21% increase in accepted referrals from 2020 to 2021. Alongside these targeted enhancements of capacity in CAMHS teams, there has also been investment in telehealth, eating disorder teams and in-patient care. The HSE have also invested in services such as Jigsaw and Primary Care Psychology for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties who do not need to access the specialist mental health services that CAMHS provide.

Between 2020 and 2021, referral rates have increased by 30%, however the wait list grew by only 8% in that same period. Total appointments seen increased by 9% between 2020 and 2021. In-patient CAMHS capacity has been increased, and there has been a reduction in numbers of children admitted to adult acute units - from 84 in 2018 to zero admissions in the first quarter of 2022, and 3 admissions in April. A new 10 bedded Forensic CAMHS unit is included in the development of the new National Forensic Mental Health Service in Portrane.

The continued investment in Mental Health Services has also enabled investment in telehealth and digital service provision, including through establishment of remote CAMHS Hubs ('CAMHS Connect'), tele psychiatry, counselling services (e.g. Turn2Me, SilverCloud and MyMind), as well as crisis text service

A CAMHS waiting list initiative is currently underway, focusing on the specific issues impacting each area which is targeted at reducing the waiting lists by approximately 1, 200 cases.

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

Yours sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services