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Deputy Alan Kelly  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**PQ Number: 32221/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if CAMHS and the mental health services of the HSE in County Tipperary have psychologists, counsellors and dieticians specifically trained to support adolescents and teenagers that are battling with eating disorders - Alan Kelly**

**Comments:** *Crosses two CHO area's*

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Dear Deputy Kelly,

National Mental Health Services have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which crosses CHO areas 3 and 5, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

### **Response from Head of Service Mental Health Mid West Community Healthcare (CHO3)**

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Mid-West Community Healthcare provides services to children and adolescents (< 18years) residing in North Tipperary presenting with moderate to severe mental health issues. This includes children and adolescents presenting with eating disorders.

The Consultant Psychiatrist led CAMHS Team in North Tipperary is staffed by members of the following disciplines: NCHD's, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy and Social Care and is supported by administration staff. Within this staff group several staff have availed of specialist training provided under the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorder (NCPED) HSE and have amassed significant experience working with this cohort of young people both in this service and in specialist Eating Disorder services based in other CHO areas.

As a regional CAMHS, the service has secured approval and is currently recruiting two dietitians at senior grade who will provide services directly to this group of young people attending this CAMHS.

The service has also just recently secured funding for the recruitment of two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) in Eating Disorders (CAMHS) and recruitment is underway. These two service developments will be of significant benefit to this group of service users.



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In addition, the service is currently in discussion with the Lead for NCPED to prepare a submission for the funding of a specialist Eating Disorder mini-hub multi-disciplinary team as per the recommendations outlined in the NCPED Model of Care (HSE, 2018). If successful, this will support further development of services for children and adolescents presenting with eating disorders across the whole of CHO3 including North Tipperary.

#### **Response from Head of Service Mental Health South East Community Healthcare (CHO5)**

**Psychologists:** There are currently no Psychologists specifically trained to support adolescents and teenagers that are battling with eating disorders

**Counsellors:** There are currently no Counsellors specifically trained to support adolescents and teenagers that are battling with eating disorders

**Dietitians:** There are currently no Dietitians specifically trained to support adolescents and teenagers that are battling with eating disorders

Of note, there are 3 nurses working in CAMHS South Tipperary who have received training specific to eating disorders.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Tony McCusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**