



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.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th July 2022

PQ Number: 32587/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health how far below the optimum staffing level of staff for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services helpline service are; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

Further to your Parliamentary Question 32586/22 there is no Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services helpline service nor are there any plans to have a helpline for CAMHS which is a secondary and tertiary specialist mental health service.

The framework guiding *Sharing the Vision, a Mental Health Policy for Everyone* (2020) identifies six levels of support and services, against which service planning is made. These six levels are identified with the aim of ensuring that people receive the support they need, when they need it – the objective being to improve our capacity for prevention and early intervention whilst ensuring specialist mental health services can meet the needs of those experiencing more serious mental health difficulties. The six levels of support are: information and mental health promotion; self-help; person-to-person supports; community and primary care mental health services; specialist mental health services; and, mental health services to address enduring and complex needs. Helpline services take place within Levels 1 and 2 of this framework.

There are, however a number of helpline services provided by the NGO sector which are funded by the HSE.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services