



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Bernard J. Durkan.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

21st March 2022

PQ Number: 11206/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he proposes to overhaul CAMHS with a view to ensuring high quality early diagnosis, elimination of confusion which might suggest an alternative diagnosis; the steps in hand or to be taken to ensure the roll-out of a nationwide, high-quality CAMHS service; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 has taken a range of actions to address the findings of the Maskey Report, which was published in January 2022 and is committed to ensuring the full implementation of its 35 recommendations. A National Oversight Group chaired by Chief Clinical Officer and the Chief Operations Officer has been established to oversee, monitor and report on the implementation of the Maskey Report. This Oversight Group has a strong service user focus and will operate in a fully transparent manner. Progress reports will be publicly available.

While the scope of the Look-Back Review is confined to practices in South Kerry Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, in order to provide assurance to families who need its services, the HSE's National Oversight Group is in the process of commissioning an independently chaired review of medication practice across all CAMHS Teams.

The National Oversight Group will also commission an audit of compliance with operational guidelines, as well as a qualitative study of how those who use, work in and refer to CAMHS, experience those services. Information from the planned national audits will guide continued efforts to enhance youth mental health 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. Within the past six years,



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€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 our workforce. There are currently 73 multi-disciplinary CAMHS teams in place providing important assessment and treatment services. Alongside these targeted enhancements of capacity in our CAMHS teams, the HSE has invested in telehealth, eating disorder teams and in-patient care. The HSE has 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 provided by CAMHS.

The improvement of Youth Mental Health services remains a key priority for the HSE as it continues to implement the recommendations set out in the policy document - 'Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone'.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services