



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Jim O Callaghan,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

28th March 2022

PQ Number: 13068/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when there will be integration of services for children who require mental health assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Jim O' Callaghan

Dear Deputy O Callaghan,

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 wish to advise as follows:

CAMHS provide specialist mental health service to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team; such as moderate to severe anxiety disorders, moderate to severe depression, Bi Polar Affective disorder, Psychosis, moderate to severe eating disorders or self-harm. Approximately 2% of the population would be expected to require support from the service and the 73 multi-disciplinary CAMHS Teams.

The HSE has continued to invest in enhanced services for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties who do not need to access specialist mental health services. These include Jigsaw and other funded agencies in the community and voluntary sector.

There are some children and adolescents with complex clinical issues who may present with a number of difficulties and a moderate to severe mental health disorder at the same time. Where the child or adolescent presents with a moderate to severe mental health disorder, it is the role of CAMHS to provide appropriate multi-disciplinary mental health assessment and treatment for the mental health disorder. This may involve joint working or shared care with other agencies including HSE Primary Care, Children's Disability Network Teams and other agencies supporting children and adolescents.

When information indicates that there is more than one HSE service that could best meet the child or adolescent's needs, consultation should take place with the other service to determine which is the most appropriate or whether a joint approach to assessment and intervention is indicated. Services need to agree on the roles and responsibilities of each service in supporting the child or adolescent including which



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service has lead responsibility for coordination of care. It is in the best interests of children, adolescents and their families for CAMHS to work in partnership with other agencies and groups who have a role in supporting children and adolescents' well-being, health and emotional development. These may include schools, community groups and other statutory agencies.

In order to ensure a person-centered pathway to meet the needs of children with complex disability and their families, the HSE and TUSLA have collaborated to agree a revised Joint Working Protocol (2020) to promote best outcomes for children known to either or both agencies. Further information can be found at the following links

[programme/documents/hse-tusla-2020-joint-protocol-for-interagency-collaboration-between-the-hse-and-tusla.pdf](#)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/>

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