



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Seán Haughey.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

11th April 2022

PQ Number: 16778/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the Specialist Group on Youth Mental Health Transitions from child to adult mental health services under the Sharing the Vision plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter -Seán Haughey

Dear Deputy Haughey,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Recommendation 36 of Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for All outlines that: *Appropriate supports should be provided for on an interim basis to service users transitioning from CAMHS to GAMHS. The age of transition should be moved from 18 to 25, and future supports should reflect this.*

‘Sharing the Vision’ Youth Mental Health: Transitions, Specialist Group

A Youth Mental Health: Transitions Specialist Group has been established, by the HSE Implementation Group, at the request of the NIMC Steering Committee. This group convened in September 2021 to focus on enabling this recommendation.

The group has met six times with monthly meetings scheduled. The Chair is Mark Smyth, Senior Clinical Psychologist with Vice-Chair Paul Braham, HSE Mental Health Operations.

The recommendation has two parts, one focusing on current transition practices from CAMHS to adult services, and the other looking to future supports required to move the age of transition to 25 years. To enable progression of work, the group has identified two work streams:

Work stream 1

The development of an enhanced transitions plan (including implementation plan) to support individuals transitioning from CAMHS to adult services at 18 years. This work will involve a review of current practices with respect to adherence to the CAMHS Operating Guidelines.

The CAMHS Operational Guidelines 2019 outline the process for Transition to Adult Mental Health Services for children who are availing of CAMHS Mental Health Services. -

"If an adolescent of 17 years requires a referral to adult mental health services, a transition plan within their ICP will be required. This should ideally begin at least 6 months before their 18th birthday. Not all adolescents require a transition plan, but it is essential that all are assessed for transition and that the outcome of the assessment of future need is recorded clearly. Joint working between CAMHS and adult mental health services should be considered in the initial weeks of handover to aid a smooth transition from one service to the other. These services operate in a different way to each other and this can be a significant change for adolescents and their parent(s).

The adolescent's Consultant Psychiatrist and key worker will be responsible for initiating a handover to the adult mental health service and ensuring that appropriate information is shared in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act, 2018 and the consent of the parent(s).

The information required for a transition includes as a minimum a detailed referral letter or a copy of the ICP, a risk assessment, a record of all medication, details of any physical health needs, and a summary of all MDT interventions. If there are any challenges during the transition process, this should be escalated to the Area Mental Health Management Team in the relevant CHO area"

Work stream 1 is due for completion in Q4 2022.

Further information on CAMHS Operational Guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/publications/camhs-operational-guide-2019.pdf> (section 4.23)

Work stream 2

The development of a reconfiguration plan, including prioritised and phased recommended actions, in order to plan for the provision of age-appropriate specialist mental health services up to age 25. Work stream 2 is due for completion in Q3 2023.

These work streams are being progressed independently but in parallel with each other. The specialist group will provide the core membership of these working groups with additional expertise invited to contribute as the need arises. These working groups have met once.

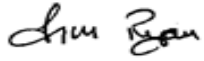
To foster early and ongoing engagement, two stakeholder engagement sessions have taken place in Q1 2022. A tender has been awarded to commission research / review to support the work of work stream 2.

The chairperson; Mark Smyth has met with the Sharing the Vision NIMC Reference Group – Service Users, Family Members & Carers to update them on the work of the group so far and further consultations with this reference group are planned.

There are advanced plans for direct engagement through a survey of young people who have transitioned from CAMHS to AMHS to hear from and understand their experiences of the existing pathways and this will be used to further inform and enhance the work of the group

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ryan', written in a cursive style.

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

