



13/04/2022

Bernard Durkan TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Re: PQ 17281 22

“To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which the CAMHS services throughout Kildare north is being expanded and improved; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Bernard Durkan, TD

Dear Deputy Durkan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question that you submitted to the Minister for Health, the Minister has requested that the HSE respond directly to you on this matter. I have examined the question raised and the following outlines the position.

There are no current plans for an additional CAMHS team in North Kildare.

The current team is fully staffed and accepted referrals are seen by the service within 3 months.

HSE Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service comprises:

- Linn Dara Inpatient Unit an Approved Centre under the Mental Health Act (2001).
- Linn Dara Specialist Community Eating Disorders Team (Regional remit)
- 8 community mental health teams covering a population of 0.5 million, in South West Dublin, South Inner City and County Kildare & West Wicklow.
- An ADHD pathway team
- A Paediatric Liaison Service to CHI at Tallaght Hospital.
- An Adolescent Day Programme based in Cherry Orchard CAMHS Building.
- 2 Community CAMHS Mental Health Intellectual Disability (MHID) teams.
- Gender Identity Development Service.
- Academic links with Trinity College Dublin

Linn Dara Community CAMHS Team

Linn Dara has a total of 8 community mental health teams covering a population of 0.5 million, in South West Dublin, South Inner City and County Kildare & West Wicklow.

The 3 teams serving South West Dublin and South Inner City are located in the Community CAMHS Building in Cherry Orchard Hospital Campus.

There is also a dedicated ADHD Pathway team (Admire Team), located in Cherry Orchard, providing specialist assessment and treatment pathway for children from South West Dublin.



The 5 Kildare teams are aligned to the Community Healthcare Networks, located in Celbridge, Clane, Naas, Kildare and Athy. This was achieved through reconfiguration from within existing resources and additional Allied Health Professional (AHP) development posts allowing these teams to fully function independently.

Linn Dara Specialist Community Eating Disorders Team

Linn Dara Community Eating Disorder Service was officially launched in September 2019. It is the first Irish community based dedicated eating disorder service for children and young people under the age of 18 years providing specialist eating disorder outpatient and day patient care. It serves South West Dublin, South Inner City and County Kildare & West Wicklow.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality and morbidity risk of all the mental health disorders. An estimated 188,895 Irish people will experience an eating disorder at some point in their lives. Approx. 1,757 new Eating Disorder cases develop each year in Ireland in the 10-49 age group. Most people can and do recover from EDs if they get effective, evidence-based treatment from Eating Disorder trained staff.

Linn Dara CAMHS inpatient unit

Linn Dara CAMHS inpatient unit, sited on the Cherry Orchard Hospital Campus, is a purpose built 24-bed unit registered as an Approved Centre by the Mental Health Commission which opened in 2016. Linn Dara Inpatient Unit which is one of the 4 HSE/HSE funded Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Units nationally. The unit comprises of 2 11-bed units, one for the older adolescent age group up to the age of 18 years, and one for children and younger adolescents. The unit also has a 2 bed high observation unit.

From the time of the unit's opening 8 beds (on average 4 on each unit) were designated for the treatment of young people with severe eating disorders. In November 2018 following a period of staff training these beds were re designated as Specialist Eating Disorder Beds. The service is now able to provide nasogastric feeding on site.

Since initiating the Specialist Eating Disorder Programme in 2018 Linn Dara has been able to admit and treat more physically unwell eating disorder patients and has not had the need to transfer any patients back to medical hospitals or abroad for treatment. It is estimated that this service initiative has prevented at least 10 patients from needing to be sent abroad thereby avoiding additional distress for young patients and their families.

The aim of the programme is to provide high quality, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and evidence based treatments to children and adolescents suffering from eating disorders, enhancing physical and emotional well-being along each young person's path of recovery.

The Inpatient Specialist Eating Disorder Programme works closely with the Linn Dara Specialist Community Eating Disorder Service, also based on the Cherry Orchard campus, so that when a young person is discharged they and their family can avail of continuing specialist input in order to support the young person's recovery.

Linn Dara Community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Intellectual Disability (MHID) Teams

Linn Dara has a total of 2 Community CAMHS MHID teams. One team covers South West Dublin and South Inner City. The other team covers County Kildare & West Wicklow.



I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you require further details please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kevin Brady".

Kevin Brady Head of Mental Health
HSE Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare