

14th June 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 27908/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the whole-time equivalent staff by role in each of the Cork CAMHS teams respectively, in tabular form that would be considered full staffing.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health needs. There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork and two sector based teams in Kerry. The CAMHS community based teams are supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare also have a Child & Adolescent Regional Eating Disorders service operating day programmes and outpatient services.

A Vision for change (AVFC) provides the following recommendations for human resource / manpower in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Ireland. Two child and adolescent CMHTs should be established for each sector of 100,000 populations. Individual teams and should comprise the following:

- one consultant psychiatrist
- one doctor in training
- two psychiatric nurses
- two clinical psychologists
- two social workers
- one occupational therapist
- one speech and language therapist
- one child care worker
- two administrative staff.

With regards to your query, please see table below which outlines the actual whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing working across the CAMHS team as of March 2022 in comparison with Vision for Change recommendations.

Service Provider	Population 0 – 18	Actual WTE March 2022	Recommended Staffing Level in Line with VFC 2006
Cork North Central	15529	9.9	76%
North Cork	24363	14.2	52%
North Lee East	16937	13.2	74%
North Lee West	16572	10.6	74%
South Lee / West Cork	19171	10.7	65%
South Lee 1	15350	9.9	84%
South Lee 2	9101	12.5	139%
South Lee 3	16992	11.5	74%

At all times Mental Health Services strives to ensure that the staff profile and skill mix appropriately meets the needs of all service users and to optimise and maximise the number of staff available to meet critical clinical need. It is also important to note that CAMHS in common with all CAMHS services nationally has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining the services of CAMHS staff in recent years. Management in Cork Mental Health Services have been taking every measure to acquire the necessary resources, clinical and otherwise to ensure a quality service for the children of Cork going forward.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare