



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th September 2022

PQ Number: 42764/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the Government's plans in relation to Sharing the Vision for a pilot reconfiguration of services that could ascertain the specific mental health needs of the 0 to 25 years cohort that should be established to inform the staffing requirements of child and adolescent mental health services and general adult mental health service teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

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 National Implementation Monitoring Committee. This group convened in September 2021 to focus on enabling recommendation 36.

The recommendation has two parts, one focusing on current transition practices from CAMHS to adult services, and the other looking at future supports required to move the age of transition to 25 years. To enable progression of work, the group has identified two work streams. Two working groups, with oversight from the Specialist group, are progressing these workstreams independently and in parallel with each other. The specialist group form membership of the two working groups.

Since it was convened the steering group has met 8 times and the working groups have separately met three times each.



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Workstream 1: *The development of an enhanced transitions plan (including implementation plan) to support individuals transitioning from CAMHS to AMHS at 18 years.*

An Enhanced Transitions Plan has been drafted and is with external stakeholders, including focus groups of young people, for consultation and feedback. The work has taken into consideration the CAMHS Operational Guidelines 2019 which 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"

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)

Workstream 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.*

The specialist group has progressed discussions with a focus on developing recommendation to provide age-appropriate mental health services for young people in a phased manner. This process has involved extensive consultation nationally and internationally and the commissioning of NUIG to conduct research to support the work of the group.



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Reporting

Regular updates on the work of the specialist group is being provided to NIMC and the group is committed to providing a quarterly update through the Sharing the Vision Implementation Status Reports. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8f821-national-implementation-and-monitoring-committee-steering-committee/#sharing-the-vision-reports>

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 'Derek Chamberlain', positioned above a horizontal line.

General Manager
Policy Implementation
National Mental Health Operations