



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

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24th April 2023

Deputy Pa Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 17969/23

“To ask the Minister for Health how many cases are involved in the ongoing north Kerry look-back review into CAMHS; how many families/patients came forward; and if he will provide an approximate timeline for the completion of the review.”

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

At the time of publication of the Maskey Look Back Review Report into the care received by some children and young people at South Kerry Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Chief Officer of Cork Kerry Community Healthcare commissioned a clinical audit of a sample of 10% of open files in North Kerry CAMHS.

Fifty randomly selected client files open to the North Kerry CAMHS Team (clients in respect of whom treatment was ongoing) were examined by a group of ten psychiatrists external to Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. This audit team was led by an Executive Clinical Director and a CAMHS Clinical Director. The audit was designed to establish what if any, variance from standard clinical practice in assessment, formulation, diagnosis, treatment planning and delivery, including prescribing practice, was in evidence in North Kerry CAMHS. This audit was required to provide information regarding clinical processes in North Kerry CAMHS.

The Audit Team provided their final report to the Chief Officer on the 20th February 2023. The Statement of Findings of the report identified the levels of harm (as per the HSE Incident Management Framework 2020) caused to 16 children / young people as follows:

No of cases	Potential for Harm
2	Moderate/Major
10	Minor
4	Negligible/Minor
Total: 16	

The audit team found it was not possible in all cases to quantify from the records what if any harm occurred to the young persons involved. The team recommended that a review be carried out of all cases, currently open to the service and separately forwarded additional information to the Chief Officer regarding the suggested extent and prioritisation categories for this review.



Where concerns were raised by the audit team in relation to individual children and young people, immediate contact was made with the families and clinical reviews and / or open disclosure meetings were facilitated as appropriate.

Contact was also made with the families of the remaining 34 children / young people that were reviewed by the audit team, advising that their files were part of the North Kerry CAMHS Clinical Audit and that the audit found no evidence of harm in its findings.

Next Steps

In preparation for the first phase of the North Kerry Look Back Review, the files of current cases are being profiled in order of urgency and risk.

Discussions with a proposed senior clinician to lead on the review are on-going. A Draft Terms of Reference has been developed. This will include determination of likely timelines, logistical considerations, communications with families etc.

The Kerry CAMHS Information Line also remains open to families and young people affected on 1800-742-800.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie O'Neill'.

Ms. Julie O'Neill
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare