

14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 10280/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the clinical programme for adult ADHD assessment in CHO4, including the number of people on waiting lists, how the programme is being implemented, and the date for commencement of the programme”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Adult ADHD National Clinical Programme (NCP) applies to adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It is delivered as part of the HSE’s mental health service provision and across government departments to ensure a holistic, integrated, person-centred response to adults with ADHD. The programme includes both assessment and treatment of the disorder and works collaboratively with voluntary agencies.

One of the first steps in developing a service is to design a Model of Care. The ADHD in Adults NCP Model of Care was launched on the 14th of January 2021 by Minister Mary Butler. All Clinical Programmes are dependent on new additional funding to be implemented fully and Programmes can take several years to be fully implemented. GPs and those working in healthcare settings may find the Clinical Pathway in the Model of Care useful to understand the referral processes where services are now in place.

The 2022 Estimates process provided funding for Adult ADHD teams. These new teams are planned to be operational by 2023 and will cover:

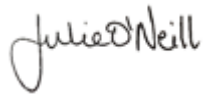
- CHO4 – Cork – covering North Lee, South Lee and North Cork
- CHO4 – Kerry – covering Kerry and West Cork (ADHD team at 0.5WTE reflecting smaller population)

With regard to Kerry Mental Health Services, the 0.5 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) ADHD Consultant is now in post with the 0.5 WTE Senior Clinical Psychologist and 0.6 WTE Admin. Recruitment is underway in relation to the 0.5 WTE Senior Occupational Therapist and Clinical Nurse Specialist. This service will link with the CAMHS service for children with a diagnosis of ADHD who require treatment and who are now transitioning to Adult Services. The ADHD clinic was established in October 2022 and became a prescription clinic from January 2023. Currently the ADHD service have a case load of approximately 301 people and 55 of these are currently on the waiting list. The programme in Kerry is carried out across 5 x half day sessions across Tralee and Killarney and a one hour multi-disciplinary and intake meeting is held each Wednesday. It was noted that at this time, no referrals have been submitted to the team from the West Cork catchment area.

With regard to Cork Mental Health Services, a temporary 0.8 WTE Consultant on the team has recently taken up post along with a Senior Psychologist and they are currently working on the Standardised Operational Procedure (SOP) and are engaging with referrers as per the National SOP. Recruitment is ongoing in relation to the remaining members. The team will begin functioning clinically on a limited basis as soon as pathways and policies are finalised. The team will be based at the new Ballincollig Primary Care Centre and provide a service to North Lee, South Lee and North Cork.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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