



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd February 2023

PQ Number: 6057/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the CHO that has a CAMHS service that is operated independently of the HSE that was referenced in the Mental Health Commission's interim report into CAMHS; the name of the independent provider; if any efforts are being made to replicate the "excellent care" being provided by that provider elsewhere in the country; 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.

The Lucena Clinic services provided by Saint John of Gods Hospitaller Services provide CAMHS services to the HSE via a Service Level Agreement. The governance of this SLA is aligned to the Chief Officer and Head of Service for Mental Health in CHO East.

In February 2022, the Inspector of Mental Health Services announced the decision to carry out a review of the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in accordance with her powers under the 2001 Mental Health Act. The Inspector submitted an Interim Report to the HSE on 05/01/2023, based on a review of five CHO areas. The HSE fully engaged in the review process in collaboration with staff, as well as children, young people and families who require the support of CAMHS. When raised, specific concerns were promptly and comprehensively addressed by the CHO's. However, there are a small number of cases where different opinions on individual cases need to be reviewed.

The HSE has confirmed that it will conduct a review of open cases as recommended by the MHC. This review of open cases will provide assurance that these children and young people are receiving appropriate care, reflective of their current and future needs. The review will include a focus on physical health monitoring of those who are on medication on the basis of NICE or similar, relevant guidelines.



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Email: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

It is important to highlight that there were no children or young people 'lost to follow-up', and currently there are no active relevant concerns. The 'lost cases' quoted by the MHC in the interim report, had in fact already been identified by the respective CHO areas who had already embarked on a review programme prior to the MHC audit commencing.

Indeed the Mental Health Commission (2023, pp.3) note that:

"We found CAMHS staff worked extremely hard to try to provide a good CAMH service. We are aware that many young people and their families have received excellent care and treatment within the often-limited resources of the CAMHS teams and we found that many teams were innovative in trying to mitigate the risk posed by lack of staff. We are aware that experience of good services with positive outcomes may get lost in the sometimes-heated discussions about CAMHS and we have found many teams where there was good quality clinical practice and one CHO where an independently provided CAMHS service provided excellent care".

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services