

20th February 2023

Deputy Pádraig O’Sullivan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 6621/23

“To ask the Minister for Health when adult attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder services and supports will be in place in CHO4 in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O’Sullivan,

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 referral processes where services are now in place.

When fully implemented, 12 Adult ADHD Clinics will be established to provide assessment and multi-modal treatment in Community Healthcare Organisations in line with the national Model of Care. Each clinic consists of a Consultant Psychiatrist, Senior Psychologist, Senior Occupational Therapist, Clinical Nurse Specialist Mental Health and an Administrator. Adult ADHD clinics provide public services to patients over 18 years old and who are residing within a defined catchment area. The service is a specialist service providing assessment and treatment of ADHD for adults with moderate to severe ADHD symptoms and associated impairment. The Adult ADHD Teams accept referrals from both Adult and Child Community Mental Health Teams. There is a modified pathway for young adults transitioning from Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) where each young person should have a formal re-evaluation of their ADHD status carried out by CAMHS one year prior to their 18th birthday to ensure the diagnostic criteria for ADHD are met and/or an ongoing need for ADHD specific medication is established.

Access to the service is outlined in the national Model of Care which includes the clinical pathway. If a GP refers a patient they are first seen by their local Adult Mental Health Team (AMHT) where they are assessed for co-morbid mental illnesses and screened using the ASRS and WURS ADHD specific scales and where screening positive on both, patients are referred by the Adult Mental Health Team on to the ADHD Adult Clinic.

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

- CKCH (CHO 4) – Cork – covering North Lee, South Lee and North Cork
- CKCH (CHO 4) – Kerry & West Cork – covering Kerry and West Cork (ADHD team at 0.5WTE reflecting smaller population)

With regard to Kerry Mental Health Services which covers Kerry and West Cork also, I have been advised that funding has been provided for 0.5 ADHD consultant who is now in post, 0.5 wte senior clinical psychologist, 0.5 wte occupational therapist and recruitment is on-going with these posts. 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 team is currently based in Tralee but plans to move to the Killarney area once the identified premises is ready. Currently the ADHD service have a case load of approximately 250 people and are receiving on average 6 new referrals per week.

With regard to Cork Mental Health Services, I have been advised that a temporary Consultant on the team has taken up post in a limited capacity and has only commenced working additional hours this month. In addition to this, the senior psychologist for the team has been recruited and 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. Furthermore, they will be fully operational once the remainder of the team is in place. 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,



Mr. Hugh Scully
A/General Manager
Mental Health Services
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