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Deputy Mick Barry.
Dail Eireann,
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06th April 2023

PQ Number: 8340/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if public adult ADHD services will be available in the CH04 area in Cork; if he will report on waiting lists for public ADHD assessments in CH04 and nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mick Barry

Dear Deputy Barry,

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.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Once viewed as a childhood disorder, it is now widely accepted that ADHD persists into adulthood in a proportion of individuals, resulting in functional impairments such as higher rates of academic failure, impaired social functioning, difficulty with emotional regulation, and increased substance misuse (Willcutt et al., 2012; Lee et al., 2016; Beheshti et al., 2020, Groenman et al., 2017; Sundquist et al., 2015).

The ADHD in Adults National Clinical Programme's Model of Care was launched on the 14th January, 2021. When fully implemented, 11 Adult ADHD Clinics will be established to provide assessment and multi-modal treatment in the CHOs in line with the Model of Care.

In 2022, Minister Butler provided funding for Adult ADHD Services to be established in CHO 4. One service will cover Cork City and County with the second covering Kerry and West Cork. Based on the adult population in the two areas, the Cork only service will have 5 full-time multidisciplinary staff led by a consultant adult psychiatrist and the Kerry/West Cork Service 5 half-time staff.

Recruitment started for both services last year. The consultants, psychologists and administrators are now in post with a mental health nurse due to take up post for the Cork Service on March 24th. The Kerry/West Cork post was not filled so that interview is being re-run. The interviews for the occupational therapy posts were held very recently with job offers due to issue to those successful at interview.

The Cork Service is being rolled out on a phased basis to the 3 mental health catchment areas (South Lee , North Cork and North Lee) beginning in April 2023.

Once the post in Kerry/West Cork is filled, they will take referrals for this specialized service. At present these patients are seen by general adult teams largely as the result of the Maskey Report i.e. young people transitioning from the South Kerry CAMHS service to adult service. The number of referrals in this area are significantly higher than other areas and the allocated resource from the National Clinical programme will have to be reviewed to fulfil the needs of these patients. I will work with the programme regarding the increased resource required for this area. In summary, we will be working towards all staff posts be increased from half-time to full-time.

In terms of waiting lists, I have liaised with the Interim Head of Service for Mental Health in CHO4 who has advised that the ADHD service currently has 57 service users on the waiting list for psychology assessment in Kerry Mental Health Services. As a requirement of the Maskey Report, all adults attending the ADHD clinic must have a full Psychology assessment completed prior to their appointment with the Consultant. The one exception to this is when service users referred to the clinic present with an existing Psychology assessment completed by a recognised Clinical Psychologist. For these service users and service users who have completed their psychology assessment, there is no waitlist for Consultant assessments.

Currently, no funding has been identified for access to a specific Adult ADHD Team in the following areas and therefore there are no waiting lists for assessment:

- CHO1 & 8 : including: Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Meath
- CHO2 including: Mayo, Galway and Roscommon
- CHO5: including: South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford
- CHO9: including: Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West
- Dublin Prison Service

Until local Adult ADHD Clinics are fully established in line with the Model of Care, all Adult Mental Health Teams (AMHTs) should continue to assess and treat people referred with ADHD who are known to have high rates of co-morbid mental health disorders, particularly anxiety and depression. Local AMHTs should respond to referrals from adults with possible ADHD, including patients who have transitioned from CAMHS, in the same way as they do for other mental disorders. These services have been advised to refer to NICE guidelines 2018, 2019 on the assessment and management of children, adolescents and adults with ADHD for guidance.

Further information on the HSE's ADHD in Adults services including the National Model of Care can be found here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/adhd/>

Other support services and useful information can be viewed on the following webpages:

<https://adhdireland.ie/for-adults/>

<https://adhdfoundation.org.uk>

<http://www.addiss.co.uk/about.html>

<https://additudemag.com>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Niazi", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive