



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

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

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

6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**PQ Number: 4144/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when the HSE survey of children's health service stakeholders will take place in relation to page 18 of the Mental Health Commission interim report into CAMHS; the CHOs that are currently carrying out joint working and interagency meetings between children's health services and if he will make a statement on the matter – Mark Ward**

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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.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to this Parliamentary Question. Contact had to be made with the Office of each Head of Service for Mental Health in the nine CHO areas which required a considerable amount of time and human resource capacity across the system. This information has been provided by each service and any information reported is correct at point in time.

**Response from Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CHO 1)**

***Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service***

An Integrated Children's Services Forum (ICSF) is established in the area to include representatives of CDNTs, Primary Care, CAMHS and other services as required. Cavan/Monaghan Mental Health Service attend the ICSF integrated care forum meeting monthly representing Cavan Monaghan CAMHS.

***Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Service***

Joint working and interagency meetings are provided by both Sligo/Leitrim CAMHS teams where applicable.

***Donegal Mental Health Service***

There is a joint Regional Liaison Meeting (RLM) held on the second Wednesday of every month with Primary Care Psychology, Jigsaw and Tusla where new referrals are discussed. Children's Disability Network Team do not attend this.



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**Response from Community Healthcare West (CHO 2)**

The Head of Service for CHW has advised that they participate in joint working and interagency meetings between children's health services.

**Response from Mid-West Community Healthcare (CHO 3)**

The Head of Service in CHO3 has advised that MWCH supports the Joint Protocol for Interagency Collaboration between the Health Service Executive and Tusla – Child and Family Agency to promote the best interests of Children and Families. Work has commenced in CHO 3 to develop an Integrated Children's Services Forum as outlined in Joint Working Protocol Primary Care, Disability and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (HSE 2017).

Two (2) of six (6) CAMHS teams have regular interagency meetings with other care groups both voluntary and statutory. This has been ongoing for a number of years. All CAMHS teams in MWCH engage with individual clinicians attached to primary care and disabilities, education and child protection and welfare services, on a case by case basis and participate and contribute to inter-agency and multi-agency forums around individual cases.

**Response from Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO 4)**

CAMHS teams in CHO4 have regular joint working and interagency meetings with Children's Disability Network Teams. CAMHS teams also meet with other agencies and services including: Tusla, schools and Primary Care Services as part of the Joint Protocol for Interagency Collaboration.

**Response from South East Community Healthcare (CHO 5)**

The Head of Service has advised that an Integrated Children's Forum has been established in CHO5. This Forum is in its infancy but has been established to assess the care needs of the most complex children across the SECH geography. The Group comprises representation from primary care, disability services and mental health services.

**Response from Community Healthcare East (CHO 6)**

CHO6 have advised that they are currently carrying out joint working and interagency meetings between children's health services.

**Response from Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare (CHO 7)**

The Head of Service in DSKWW Community Healthcare have confirmed that they hold interagency meetings with Tusla, Integrated Childrens across care groups and integrated fora with Acute Hospitals.

**Response from Community Health Organisation Midlands Louth Meath (CHO 8)**

CAMHS services in CHO 8 attend joint working and interagency meetings as per NAP and HSE/Tusla Protocol.



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**Response from Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO 9)**

Each Community CAMHS team located within CHO Dublin North City and County actively engages and interacts with a range of statutory and voluntary stakeholders at local level. The CAMHS referral committee's sign post service users to allied services as a defined component of standard service delivery. CAMHS also has representation at the Tusla lead Integrated Case Management Forum which is attended by Tusla, Disability Services and CAMHS DNCC.

Further information and detail on the Joint Protocol for Interagency collaboration between the HSE and Tusla – Child and Family Agency to promote the Best Interests of children and families can be found here:

[https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/HSE\\_Tusla\\_Joint\\_Working\\_Protocol\\_v\\_1.0\\_March\\_2017\\_Signed.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/HSE_Tusla_Joint_Working_Protocol_v_1.0_March_2017_Signed.pdf)

In relation to the survey of children's health service stakeholders, the HSE was already in the process of undertaking qualitative research into CAMHS experiences in response to the Maskey Report. In collaboration with UCC as the academic partner, research is being undertaken to include the lived experience of service users, families and carers, staff, referrers and other key stakeholders interacting with the CAMHS service. The research commenced in January 2023 and is expected to be complete by Q3, 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker', written over a horizontal line.

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**Tony McCusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**