



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.

6th March 2023

PQ Number: 4145/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of CHOs using telepsychiatry for CAMHS; if he will provide feedback on its use to date; 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.

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)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services within CHO CDLMS do not use tele-psychiatry.

Response from Community Healthcare West (CHO 2)

CAMHS in Community Healthcare West use tele-psychiatry. The Head of Service in CHO2 has advised that Service User feedback has indicated that tele-psychiatry has a place in CAMHS Services, however the preferred approach is a blended one, advised by clinical need, service user preferences and available resources (clinical and technological).

Response from Mid-West Community Healthcare (CHO 3)

Each of the six (6) CAMHS Teams in Midwest Community Healthcare is led by a Consultant Psychiatrist. The Head of Service has advised that by the end of March 2023, Mental Health Services in MWCH will have increased the number of CAMHS Registered Consultants from 3.6 to 7.2 WTE. This will provide a good spread of CAMHS Registered Consultants across the service and will strengthen medical governance. MWCH CAMHS are continually seeking to strengthen the service and find new ways to reach more



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children. One such approach has been the introduction of a blended approach in January 2023. This approach involves one of the CAMHS teams providing face to face appointments to children in their clinic, and team members are supported, by a CAMHS Registered Consultant via tele-psychiatry. The Head of Service has advised that this team has another full time CAMHS Registered Consultant in place and the tele-psychiatry service is an additional resource that has been provided to the team, to increase their capacity to provide services to more children.

Response from Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO 4)

The South Kerry CAMHS team in CHO4 are using tele-psychiatry to address the ongoing Consultant vacancy. To date, the feedback received from young people and their families has been very positive. The Head of Service has advised that CHO4 hope to explore the use of tele-psychiatry in Cork.

Response from South East Community Healthcare (CHO 5)

The Head of Service has advised that tele-psychiatry is being used by some disciplines within many of the CAMHS team in South East Community Healthcare Mental Health Service.

Response from Community Healthcare East (CHO 6)

Lucena CAMHS provide a hybrid service, offering both tele and face to face psychiatry to children and young people. However, Community Healthcare East have advised that appointments are now predominately face to face.

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

The Head of Service has advised that while every CAMHS team is clinic based with an onsite Consultant, telehealth is used as part of a mix of service delivery options for CAMHS in Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.

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

The Midlands CAMHS uses tele-psychiatry/telehealth within their services on parental request or as clinically indicated. The Louth/Meath CAMHS do not use tele-psychiatry/telehealth within their services.

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

Mental Health assessment and treatment by CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrists in CHO DNCC, is delivered to service users on a face to face basis by Community CAMHS Teams and Day Hospital.

Attend Anywhere is an encrypted web-based platform that helps health care providers offer video calls to their patients, which is also utilised by psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists on our CAMHS Teams, as an enhancement to the face to face appointments and at the request of service users.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker'.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services