

13th February 2023

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 4561/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if a guarantee be given that no CAMHS beds will be closed in a facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 4536/23

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on mental health staff numbers in a facility (details supplied); the reported number of staff leaving; if CAMHS beds will be closed as a result of same; if so, the length of time that they will be closed; the steps being taken to replace these staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: Éist Linn

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Éist Linn is a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit for young people aged 13 to 17 years of age. It consists of an inpatient unit and dedicated adjoined school. Éist Linn is part of the National Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Service. The referral pathway is through the Community CAMHS team. The catchment area includes the counties Cork, Kerry, Waterford, South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) staffing and recruitment is impacted by the current shortage of trained Mental Health staff nationally - a trend which is not unique to Ireland.

Please see table below in relation to current staffing on the unit:

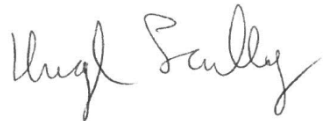
Discipline	WTE allocated	WTE at present
Consultant	2	2
NCHD	3	2
Area Director Of Nursing	1	1
Assistant Director of Nursing	1	1
CNM3	1	1
CNS	2	2
CNM2	4	3
Staff Nurse	26	15
SLT	.4	.4

Social Worker	2	1.6
Psychologist	2	1
Occupational Therapist	1	.8
Admin Staff	2.6	2
Multi Task Attendants	5	3
Teacher	2	2
School Principal	1	1

With regard to covering these vacancies, all options remain under consideration at this time to include potential redeployment from other services to Éist Linn, to increase the usage of overtime and agency where available etc. Service Management have also engaged with their colleagues across the CHOs to exhaust all avenues to secure additional staffing for Éist Linn. It is important to note there is no indication to reduce bed numbers as the bed occupancy within the unit has not been impacted by these vacancies at this time.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



Mr. Hugh Scully
A/General Manager
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare