



National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead Mental  
Health  
Health Service Executive  
Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Dublin 8,  
DO8 W2A8.

Email: [ncagl.mentalhealth@hse.ie](mailto:ncagl.mentalhealth@hse.ie)

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

02/08/2023

**PQ Number: 35320/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the roll-out of the eating disorder network and the implementation of the HSE national model of care plan for eating disorders; The target operational dates for the remaining adult and CAMHS teams for eating disorders; 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.

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland across the lifespan. Key recommendations include the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service, a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce. In the context of the significant physical morbidity associated with eating disorders, this Model of Care also recommends a strong integration between primary care, mental health services and medical teams, including the bridging of the acute hospital and mental health service divide through mutual clinical commitments and shared pathways.

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care.

Since 2016 over €8 million has been allocated for Eating Disorder posts through programme for government funding. This has resulted in the set-up of the first 3 Eating Disorder teams (CHO7 CAMHS, CHO4 CAMHS and CHO6 adult) and to recruit the 2nd phase of teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). The 2022 funding was used for the continued investment in specialist Eating

Disorder posts including a 3rd phase of specialist community team development in 2022 CHO5 Adult, CHO1 Adult and CHO6 CAMHS. Recruitment has advanced in all areas.

In 2023 no new funding for clinical staff was provided in HSE National Service Plan to develop the

Eating Disorder team	Current status	Expected start date
1. CAMHS ED CHO4	Operating	Commenced May 2019
2. CAMHS ED CHO7	Operating	Commenced April 2018
3. Adult ED CHO6	Operating	Commenced November 2018
4. Adult ED CHO9	Operating	Commenced Jan 2023
5. Adult CHO4	Team recruited, consultant commenced in July and currently in set up phase.	Q3 2023
6. CAMHS ED CHO 2	Core Team recruited – consultant due to start in September	Q3 2023
7. Adult ED CHO1 (2 Mini teams – Sligo/Leitrim and Cavan/ Monaghan)	Final posts for Cavan in recruitment. All others in place.	Commenced
8. Adult ED CHO5	Consultant post is been re-advertised. Other MDT appointments are starting.	TBC
9. CAMHS ED CHO9	Consultant commenced in July and other team members in final phase of recruitment.	Q3 2023
10. CAMHS ED CHO6 (Initial funding from CHO)	Operating - Consultant and 5 MDT members recruited – funding to complete the team submitted in 2024 estimates	Commenced Nov 2022 –

remaining Eating Disorder teams or to add additional posts to existing teams where required to meet demand and population serviced. We continue to work with the existing teams, CHOs, to develop staff skills and provide expert training and supervision in line with agreed MOC. As part of 2024 estimates we are requesting the completion of CAMHS CHO6 Team, additional posts for existing teams to meet demand within population covered and 2 additional new teams.

The NCPED recommends funding three eating disorder teams per year to ensure sustainable phased recruitment and training. The remaining teams to receive funding are listed below.

Eating Disorders Adult Teams	Eating Disorders CAMHS teams
CHO7	CHO3
CHO2	CHO1
CHO3	CHO5

**Women's Health Task Force:** The NCPED has successfully secured funding in 2021 and 2022 to recruit medical/paediatric consultants and hospital dietitian sessions within acute hospitals to work with existing and future community eating disorder teams. Business cases to support recruitment to these posts is actively being progressed. The first hospital dietitian in paediatrics with dedicated sessions for eating disorders began in May 2022. The first 0.4 Consultant Paediatric post commenced with CHO4 CAMHS ED team from end Jan 2023. The second 0.5 Consultant Paediatric post will commence with CHO 7 CAMHS ED team in September 2023. The first 0.5 Consultant physician post is at advanced stages of recruitment with the adult CHO 9 team and also expected to start in 2023. All of these posts have and will increase access to medical reviews.

The NCPED continues to develop online and face to face training and education for all clinicians including supervision and support in the delivery of evidence based outcomes. Support has been provided to access MEED Guidelines and continued monthly supervision in FBT and CBT-E.

All the teams return quarterly service activity data which enables information gathering of numbers accessing assessment and evidence based treatments. To date in 2023 we continue to see high numbers of referrals to community eating disorder teams which exceed the need as predicted by the MOC 2018.

A Service users and carer reference Group will be convened and chaired by BodyWhys on behalf of the NCPED to contribute to the ongoing implementation of the MOC and provide regular feedback to the NCPED Implementation and Advisory Group. This is expected to be in place by Q3 2023. Bodywhys continue to deliver online education programme for families known as PiLAR. This is a very successful programme that is valued by families and clinicians.

An Evaluation of the MOC is now recommended to review the implementation and impact of the MOC to date. This will need to include the effect of the unprecedented rise of eating disorder presentations during the COVID pandemic. The NCPED is in the process of identifying a suitable organisation/Institute to carry out the evaluation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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