



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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6th July, 2023

Mr. Duncan Smith T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 29584/23

To ask the Minister for Health the early intervention psychosis services currently available within CHO8.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 I outline the position as follows for Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation.

Meath Early Intervention for Psychosis Service (EIP) operates as a hub and spoke model delivering specialised early intervention for psychosis services in Ashbourne double sector, Navan double sector, and Trim/Kells double sector general adult community mental health teams.

These teams are part of the Meath demonstration site for EIP services, and is part of the HSE National Clinical Pathway for early intervention in psychosis. This is a fully operational, specialised early intervention team comprising of many disciplines.

There are six keyworkers which provides specialised individual care to the service users on the programme. Each service user receives consistent, individualised, and tailored care. The keyworkers are attached to the general adult community mental health teams, and the patient population is 18 to 65 year olds.

- There is one Behavioural Family Therapist who provides behavioural family therapy (BFT). BFT are offered to all patients and their families who are part of the programme. A family support group is also run a couple of times in the year. At end of year 2022 80% of families availed of either BFT and or our family group intervention. 20% of service users declined any family intervention.
- There is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist in psychosis (CBTp) who offers specialised cognitive behavioural therapy for psychosis to all service users on the programme. At the end of year 2022, 82% of service users were offered CBTp and 18% of services users declined the intervention.



- There are two individual placement support workers (IPS), providing specialist employment support for all our service users. 78% of those offered IPS avail of the support and 22% of those eligible decline the service.
- Metabolic and Physical health is addressed by our keyworkers who run a “Lifestyle Matters Programme” several times a year. This programme is in collaboration with a local community group, and addresses healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle matters for participants. In addition, there is a screening clinic where bloods are checked. The relevant GP is alerted if there are emerging concerns regarding their patient’s metabolic profile.

The EIP team is a recovery orientated service with a focus on recovery and engagement. The EIP team provides an in-reach service to the inpatient unit in the Department of Psychiatry Drogheda. The team liaises with the in-patient teams, in identifying those with a first episode of psychosis, commencing appropriate interventions whilst the patient is still in hospital. This service continues to the patient following discharge to the community.

The Midlands Mental Health Services are not part of the pilot programme for Early Intervention Psychosis services. As such, there is no dedicated EIP. Patients presenting with psychosis directly to our approved centres or as referred by their GP are seen by existing Mental Health Teams.

In Longford Westmeath, there is one Advanced Nurse Practitioner employed in the Longford Westmeath area. This staff member provides a service across all the Adult Mental Health Teams in these two counties.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carole Broadbank'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation