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Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th May 2023

PQ Number: 21680/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the number of eating disorder teams currently in place details of the number of eating disorder teams currently in place in each CHO, including the number of staff currently assigned to each team; the number of vacancies; his plans to recruit the required staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality and morbidity within mental health and they pose significant health, social and economic cost to people with eating disorders, to their families and to society. Early intervention, evidence based care, and consistent support make a profound difference to the clinical and personal recovery of people who are affected by eating disorders, including to those in adolescence when so many eating disorders begin.

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. 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.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence based treatment from ED trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the

community. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

Funding was made available in 2021 to start the 2nd phase of teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS). Recruitment of MDT teams requires 12-18 months duration in line with HSE recruitment procedures. The CHO 9 Adult ED team has completed recruitment, including a consultant adult psychiatrist and is now operating from Jan 2023. The recruitment of the team in CHO4 (adult) has concluded in Jan 2023 and we are awaiting a start date for the consultant psychiatrist. In CHO2 the team has been recruited except for the Consultant Psychiatrist. The post was advertised but no appointment was made. This post will now be advertised again. In the interim the rest of the team are providing assessment and interventions under the governance of CAMHS teams.

Funding was secured in 2022 to support commencement of recruitment for Eating Disorder Posts in a 3rd phase of additional teams in CHO 9 (CAMHS), CHO 5 (adult) and CHO 1 (adult). We are pleased to report that CHO9 (CAMHS) recruitment of this team, including the Consultant Psychiatrist, is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by Q2 2023. The Consultant Post has been accepted and is expected to start in Q2 2023. CHO1 (Adult) team is split across 2 sites each received funding for 3.2 posts. Locally each CHO is looking to fill the consultant time from local resources. The other posts are progressing through recruitment. Interviews for Consultant Psychiatrist CHO5 took place at end of October 2022, however the post was not accepted. The post continues to be re-advertised. To date they have offered Occupational Therapy Post and CNS posts to suitable candidates.

Women's Health Task Force:

The NCPED has successfully secured funding 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.

As a NCPED we can report on our ED teams that are currently operational and the additional teams at advanced stages of recruitment. This is a point in time report and is subject to daily change. Vacant posts refer to posts where by funding is available and recruitment is outstanding. It does not include posts whereby funding is available, recruitment is complete and where local vacancies exist including those on sick leave/maternity leave or those on reduced working hours.

CAMHS and Adult eating disorder teams are clinically led by consultant psychiatrists and therefore these are pivotal posts to deliver these services. The recruitment of consultant psychiatrists to all HSE mental health services remains challenging and is contributed to by factors not unique to eating disorder teams. The NCPMH is continuing to work closely with NDTP, National Doctors Training and Planning, to take measures to ensure trained clinicians in Eating Disorders are available to take up posts. Training posts are available for higher specialist trainees in adult and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in existing eating disorder teams.

Eating Disorder team	Current status	Expected start date
1. CAMHS ED CHO4	Operating as per MOC	Commenced May 2019
2. CAMHS ED CHO7	Operating as per MOC	Commenced April 2018
3. Adult ED CHO6	Operating as per MOC	Commenced November 2018
4. Adult ED CHO9	Operating as per MOC	Commenced Jan 2023
5. Adult CHO4	Consultant appointed awaiting start date. Other MDT members in post.	Q3 2023
6. CAMHS ED CHO 2	Team recruited – consultant recruitment outstanding	– all recruited clinicians delivering ED care within community CAMHS teams Sept 22
7. Adult ED CHO1 (2 Mini teams – Sligo/Leitrim and Cavan/ Monaghan)	In final stages of recruitment for remaining posts	Commenced in both sites Sept 22
8. Adult ED CHO5	Consultant not appointed following interview in November will need to be re-advertised. Other MDT recruitment is ongoing	TBC
9. CAMHS ED CHO9	Consultant recruited in Dec 2022. Other MDT interviews ongoing	Q2 2023

CHO6 Adult ED team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	0.8	0	
Consultant Psychiatrist	0.5	0	
NCHD	2	0	
Consultant Physician	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with SVUH to create 1WTE
Principal Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Psychologist	0.5	0	
Senior Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Senior Social worker	0.5	0.5	Awaiting backfill to fill the post
Senior Dietitian	1	1	In recruitment
Senior Dietician	0.6	0	
Senior Dietitian (Acute Hospital)	0.1	0	
Senior OT	1	1	New supplementary campaign – with Local HR
Senior Occ Therapist- Inpatient	0.2	1	New supplementary campaign – with Local HR
Creative Therapist	1	1	Campaign is still live : End date - 28/03/23
CMHN	1	1	Currently being Advertised by Local HR
CNS	2	2	1 WTE is a backfill post and 1 is currently being advertised by local HR (previous CNS campaigns not successful, job spec under review)
Clinical Team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Internally Advertised
Admin grade 4	1	0	
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	0	

CHO 4 Adult ED Team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Grade V Administrator	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
CNS	1	1	In recruitment
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	1	Successful candidate awaiting start date July 2023
Hospital Dietitian	0.1	0.1	In discussion with CUH
NCHD	0.5	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior Dietitian	1	1	Expressed to panel
Senior Registrar	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Consultant Medical	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with CUH to create WTE1.0
Senior OT	1	0	
Senior Creative Therapist	0.1	0	Changed to 0.1 dietitian
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0.5	Internal recruitment once team in place

CHO9 Adult ED team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	0	
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.3	0.3	In discussion with acute hospital
Senior Dietitian (Hospital)	0.1	0.1	As above
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0.5	To be recruited internally
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	0	
Dietician Senior	1	1	Awaiting start date
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Social Worker Senior	1	0	
Senior Registrar/NCHD	1.5	0	

CHO4 CAMHS Eating Disorder Team

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	
NCHD	1	0	
NCHD	0.5	0.5	
Clinical team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Local internal recruitment
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
CNM2	1	0	
Grade 4	1	0	Awaiting start date
Dietician Senior	1	1	0.6 recruited awaiting start date
Dietician Senior	0.2	0.2	In discussion with CUH
Consultant Physician & Paediatrician	0.6	0.4	In discussion with CUH
Social Worker Senior	0.5	0	
Senior SLT	0.5	0	
Senior OT	1	0	

CHO7 CAMHS ED

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Consultant Psychiatrist	1	0	
Grade III Clerical Officer	1	0	
Grade IV Administrator	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.5	0.5	Planned recruitment with CHI Tallaght
Senior Dietitian (Hospital)	0.2	0	
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0	
Clinical Nurse Manager 2 (Mental Health)	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	0	
Dietician Senior	1	0	
Occupational Therapist Senior	1	0	
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	0	
Social Worker Senior/Family Therapist	1	0	
Clinical Nurse Manager 1 Mental Health	1	0	
Senior Registrar	1	0	

Basic grade SW	1	0	
Senior Registrar	0.5	0	

CHO2 CAMHS ED

Post	WTE funded	WTE vacant	Recruitment update
Grade IV Administrator	1	1	
Clinical Coordinator - Senior Grade HSCP	0.5	0	
CNM	1	0	
CNS	1	0	
Consultant Paediatrician / Physician	0.2	0.2	
Consultant Child Psychiatrist	1	1	No applicants to be re-advertised via PAS
NCHD	1	0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1	0	
Senior OT	0.5	0	
Senior Dietician	1	0	
Senior Social Worker	1	0	

CHO9 CAMHS ED Team

Post	WTE	Vacancy	Recruitment update
CAMHS Consultant	1.0	0	Post accepted and at contracting stage
Clinical Team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Will be filled via EOI nearer team formation
CNS	2.0	1.0	Recruitment ongoing. CNS CAMHS Interviews took place 4.4.2023
Grade IV	1.0	0	Post Offered and at Onboarding stage with National HBS Panel
HST / Senior Registrar	1.0	1.0	Will be filled in conjunction with Consultant Commencing
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1.0	1.0	Recruitment process ongoing – unable to fill by EOI. Job order now with National HBS to fill
Senior Dietitian	1.0	1.0	Interviews held and post at accepted – awaiting start date
Senior Occupational Therapist	1.0	0	Post commenced 11th April 2023
Senior Social Worker	1.0	1.0	Recruitment process ongoing – candidate accepted and withdrew. To re- advertise competition

CHO5 Adult

Position Title	WTE Total	WTE Unfilled	Recruitment Update
Adult Consultant	1.0	1.0	To be advertised previous campaign post was offered but not accepted
Clinical Team Coordinator	0.5	0.5	Internal process once team in place
CNS	2.0	0.0	
Consultant (Physican)	0.2	0.2	
Grade IV	1.0	1.0	
HST / Senior Registrar	1.0	1.0	Commence when consultant in post
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1.0	0.0	Due to commence in July 2023
Senior Dietitian	1.0	1.0	Offered to panel no applicants as yet
Senior Occupational Therapist	1.0	0.0	
Senior Social Worker	1.0	1.0	Offered to new panel

CHO1 2 Mini Teams

Position Title	WTE Total	WTE Unfilled	Recruitment Plan
CNS	1.0	1.0	Advertised
Consultant	0.2	0.2	Seeking local appointment
Consultant	0.2	0.0	
Grade III	1.0	0.0	
Grade III	1.0	0.0	
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1.0	0.0	
Senior Dietitian	1.0	0.0	
Senior Dietitian	1.0	1.0	Offered to panel

In addition to the 9 teams above, CHO 6 CAMHS locally funded and successfully recruited 6 posts in 2022 to commence an eating disorder team in line with the Model of Care for Eating Disorder Services. This team commenced delivering a service in Q4 2022 and has joined the NCPED network. Completion of this team will require further funding via the NCPED in order to deliver a full outpatient service as recommended by the MOC.

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

Yours sincerely,



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

