



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th May 2023

PQ Number: 21768/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the nine community eating disorder teams; if timelines for their provision are being met; if there are any delays; and the reason; 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.

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.

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. There are 9 NCPED teams across three phases of funding which are continuing to actively deliver services, develop services and progress recruitment. Service planning developments for well-established teams include day programmes and transition pathways between CAMHS and Adult ED teams as per table below.

In addition to the 9 teams, 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.

The recruitment process has been impacted by the challenges in recruitment and retention experienced currently across the health service especially for Consultant Psychiatrists and dieticians. Despite this all CHOs who have been allocated funding remain committed to recruiting staff and delivering community eating disorder teams. The NCPED works closely with all CHOs to support this recruitment. The HSE continues 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. Psychiatry training posts are available in all existing community 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 since 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 2022. CHO currently reviewing job description and it will be re-advertised. Other MDT recruitment ongoing	TBC
9. CAMHS ED CHO9	Consultant recruited in Dec 2022. Other MDT interviews and recruitment is ongoing	Q3 2023

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

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amir".

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