



National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead Mental Health
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th May 2023

PQ Number: 21770/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the additional funding in Budget 2023 that has been allocated for eating disorders, excluding existing levels of service; the way in which this funding will be spent; 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.

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. It is a challenge to recruit Consultant Psychiatrists and dieticians.

In 2023 no additional funding was provided in HSE National Service Plan to develop the 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.

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 Niazi".

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