



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Róisín Shorthall.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

1st March 2024

PQ Number: 45905/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the progress of the working Group responsible for the roll-out of Health link and the relevant ICT software in CAMHS units; the expected timeline for implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. –Róisín Shorthall

Dear Deputy Shorthall,

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.

Healthlink

It is a priority for the HSE to ensure service delivery is supported by a fit for purpose digital infrastructure. In light of this, developments are underway including the establishment of a Task Group to oversee a phased scaling up of e-referral in community mental health, with an initial focus on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Work is on-going to register and train CAMHS teams to enable the use of e-referrals using the general HIQA approved e-referral form. To date, 24 CAMHS teams have received e-referral training from Healthlink and currently 11 teams are using the e-referral system.

In addition, a specialised CAMHS e-referral form has been developed and approved by the ICGP and the HSE. This specialised form is in the final stages of development and currently testing with Healthlink is underway, with a view to making this available to all CAMHS teams in Q2 2024.

Appropriate ICT software and Infrastructure

It is a priority for the HSE to ensure service delivery is supported by a fit for purpose digital infrastructure throughout CAMHS. The HSE recognises that there is an immediate need to proceed with the roll out of an ICT solution for CAMHS.

While some ICT solutions have been implemented within CAMHS, (CHO's 6, 7 and 9 currently have an ICT system in place), the majority of services are currently utilising paper based systems. The recently established Office for Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) have incorporated the need to deliver a CAMHS IT solution as an immediate priority for its Child and Youth Mental Health Service Improvement Programme.



An options appraisal had been conducted in 2023 to make recommendations on an interim ICT solution for CAMHS. However due to the clinical urgency to improve clinical governance across the CAMHS teams, a business case is being accelerated through a joint development process between the Child and Youth Mental Health Office and HSE e-Health for a long term ICT solution . The business case will outline a phased approach to the roll-out of an ICT solution across the regions. The timelines for this approach are currently being considered as part of the business case development process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hennessy".

Sarah Hennessy
General Manager
Child and Youth Mental Health Office