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South East Community Healthcare
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14.02.2024

Mr. Johnny Mythen T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 46316/23

To ask the Minister for Health if the premises for the promised new CHO5 North Wexford CAMHS centre has been secured; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 46317/23

To ask the Minister for Health for a progress report regarding the recruitment of positions for consultant psychiatrist, clinical nurse specialists, senior psychologist and administration staff for the new CAMHS team promised for CHO5 in north Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 46318/23

To ask the Minister for Health when the new promised CAMHS team for CHO5 in north Wexford will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Mental Health Services staff currently based in Enniscorthy have identified potential long-term premises in Gorey. Estates colleagues have been asked to assess works required to make these premises suitable for use as soon as possible.

Recruitment has been ongoing for the third CAMHS team in Wexford for some time. HSE SECH have interviewed on at least three occasions for the Consultant post within the team. The individual appointed in Autumn 2023 retracted their acceptance and is subsequently is not taking up employment in Ireland.

Further recruitment campaigns were held through Autumn/Winter 2023/24. Interviews scheduled for 8th December 2023 had to be cancelled as unfortunately the candidate withdrew their application from the competition. Further interviews took place on 5th January 2024, however no applicant was identified for CAMHS North Wexford full-time position. (One candidate was only interested in part-time work and the other two candidates are currently seeking IMC registration).

Mental Health Services continue in their efforts to recruit to this post. A new curriculum vitae has been submitted for consideration and, if deemed suitable, interview(s) will be arranged as soon as possible. Whilst acknowledging that recruitment and retention of senior medical staff is a challenge across the country CHO5 / South East Community Healthcare are trying new ways to recruit medical staff through promotion of the area and service, identifying key contacts for service updates and inviting interested candidates to visit the area to meet the teams in place.

On a positive note in relation to staffing, since the last update (December 2023), an Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist have been recruited for the third CAMHS team. The additional staff (1 Occupational Therapist and 1 Speech and Language Therapy, two Clinical Nurse Specialists and one Senior Psychologist) recruited for the third team are all currently working from Arnold House in Enniscorthy. Co. Wexford.

Unfortunately, until a suitable candidate for the position of Consultant Psychiatrist is identified, it is not possible to give a commencement date for this team.

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

Yours sincerely



Anne Donaghey
Head of Service Mental Health
South East Community Healthcare