



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

29th September 2023

PQ Number: 39243/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when a review of the model of care for eating disorders will be carried out: what has caused this delay in this review being carried out; 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 across the lifespan. 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.

An Evaluation of the MOC is now recommended to review the implementation and impact of the MOC to date. This will need to include the effect of the unprecedented rise of eating disorder presentations during the COVID pandemic. The NCPED is in the process of identifying a suitable organisation/Institute to carry out the evaluation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor