



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
St. Joseph's Health Campus
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313

**Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 3
D02 XR20**

11th September 2023

PQ Ref: 39355/23 "To ask the Minister for Health his view on a report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare engaged with the Mental Health Commission (MHC) throughout its process of examining CAMHS. The findings of this report, along with those of the previously-published Interim and Final Reports by the MHC, will support ongoing service improvements within Mid-West CAMHS, which aims to enhance the experience of children, young people and families who need our support. HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare acknowledges deficits in the provision of the current CAMHS service. We are continuing to progress a targeted series of service improvements in the mental health services provided in the Mid-West to children and adolescents.

The benefits of these service improvements are shown in the Mental Health Commission's Final Report into CAMHS (published July 2023). This report's findings include that:

- Mid-West CAMHS now has the highest provision of Consultant Psychiatrist staffing of any Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) when compared to the recommendations of A Vision for Change. The report also notes strong levels of staffing among Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors, Nursing Staff, Psychologists, Social Workers and Occupational Therapists.
- Mid-West CAMHS reports some of the shortest wait times from when a young person is referred to the service, until they are assessed. Mid-West CAMHS has the lowest wait time for young people referred for an assessment relating to eating disorders, and shorter-than-average wait times for all of the other main reasons for referral to CAMHS (depression, ADHD, anxiety).
- Mid-West CAMHS accepts 79% of children and young people on their first referral to the service from their GP, the joint-highest acceptance rate of any CHO area. Further benefits of these investments can be seen in the overall reduction in waiting lists across Mid-West CAMHS. The total numbers waiting for an initial CAMHS assessment have dropped by 21% since the Mental Health Commission's inspection in June 2022, and 16% since February 2023 (also referred to in the MHC report).

The development of a high quality Mid-West CAMHS service has been a key priority and focus for Mid-West Community Healthcare over the last three years and has led to improvements for the CAMHS service and has increased capacity in the CAMHS service in the Mid-West. This additional investment into the CAMHS service over the last three years is circa €2.5 million.

Reducing overall waiting times for CAMHS is a key priority for HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare. To address waiting times, a number of service investments have been made, including:

- The number of CAMHS registered consultants in the Mid-West has increased to 8.6WTE, up from 3.6WTE in January 2022. These consultants are also being supported through the appointment of additional Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs).
- Approval has been granted for the recruitment of additional staff to strengthen CAMHS Teams across the Mid-West. Recruitment is currently underway
- A new consultant-led multidisciplinary CAMHS Hub is being developed in Limerick. This an alternative model to providing inpatient care, involving treatment at home or in a day hospital, and is designed to meet needs of existing CAMHS service users with complex needs throughout the Mid-West. Recruitment is currently underway.
- A seventh CAMHS team is being developed in the Mid-West, and this will assist us to meet demand.

These developments have had a positive impact on all CAMHS teams including the two teams in Clare. Both of the teams have seen an increase in staffing levels, however, the increased staffing levels have placed additional pressure on already limited accommodation space.

The East Clare and West Clare CAMHS teams work out of a premises on the Quin Road in Ennis. HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare has experienced significant challenges in securing additional office and clinical space in Ennis. The introduction of the new Primary Care Centre in Ennis and the relocation of other HSE services into this facility, has created additional opportunities for suitable clinical and office space. As a result Clare CAMHS has now been provided with five additional clinic rooms. This development is very much welcomed by the staff in Clare CAMHS and alleviates the pressure for clinical space.

- 1- Mid-West Community Healthcare is also advancing a Capital plan for East Clare CAMHS in Inisgile Parteen, to facilitate clinics there, which would be for service users from that side of the county.
- 2- There is an estates plan being progressed to reconfigure the space in Quinn Road in order to maximise the availability of office and clinic space within the building.
- 3- These measures will further enhance the office and clinical space available to Clare CAMHS. It is anticipated that the Inisgile facility will be available for use in Q1 2024.

CAMHS services in Clare also access bookable rooms in the Kilrush Health Centre. Mid-West Community Healthcare are currently exploring options for outreach in West Clare.

Yours Sincerely,



Nuala Kelly,
Head of Service - Mental Health Service,
Mid-West Community Healthcare