



Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 14.03.2024

PQ Number: 7730/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health what steps are being taken to recruit staff so existing eating disorder treatment teams can reach full capacity; if more staff will receive specific training to treat eating disorders; and if funding for specialised staff will be ringfenced. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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
- The development of a skilled, trained workforce

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 consultant led 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. Today (March 2023) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

Between 2016 and 2022 over €8M has been invested in ED teams. 100 WTE's have been funded to establish Eating Disorders teams and over 80WTE's were filled on 11th November 2023 before a pause on recruitment was commenced within the HSE.

Training and education is a core pillar of our Model of Care. The programme implements a rolling training programme for evidence based interventions including FBT and CBTe. Each year will host an annual online conference and invite colleagues from across health care to participate. As a programme we do not have a ring fenced budget, application for funding is reviewed for each individual training.

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
Health Service Executive