



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil  
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do  
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha  
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Office of the National Clinical  
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Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Date: 14.03.2024

**PQ Number: 7731/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be made available to update the expired 2018 Eating Disorders Services Model of Care; if funding will be ringfenced for more beds; and if funding can be ringfenced to consistently fund the HSE Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. -Holly Cairns**

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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. The Model of Care recommended a formal review process after 3 years. Since 2018 the full implementation of the programme has been delayed due to a lack of consistent funding annually and COVID Pandemic.

With 11 Eating Disorder teams in place, consistent data collected and learning from implantation we are now better placed to complete an evaluation of the programme but also

to update the model of care to reflect current best practice. This does require a dedicated budget and independent external evaluators to complete a review in a timely manner.

Adults who have an eating disorder diagnosis and require inpatient care can be referred to any of the HSE's acute inpatient mental health-approved centers around the country. CHO6 St. Vincent's University Hospital has 3 specialist inpatient beds. Additional need for inpatient beds for eating disorders has been reported in A Vision for Change and endorsed by NCP Model of Care. This need was also reported in the recent HSE Mental Health Bed Capacity Report. Adults presenting with an eating disorder can also be treated in an acute hospital if their physical health needs require this.

Annual funding for Eating Disorders Programme:

Eating Disorders	Full Budget	Remaining Budget	Filled WTE	Unfilled WTE	Total WTE
<b>PFG 2016</b>	1,641,470	33,555	20.40	0.50	20.90
<b>PFG 2017</b>	955,673	122,519	11.00	1.40	12.40
<b>PFG 2018</b>	1,502,359	119,256	15.00	1.30	16.30
<b>PFG 2019</b>	1,758,980	278,469	17.70	3.40	21.10
<b>PFG 2022</b>	2,256,426	852,334	16.40	9.20	25.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,114,909</b>	<b>1,406,134</b>	<b>80.50</b>	<b>15.80</b>	<b>96.30</b>

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

Yours sincerely,




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Dr Amir Niazi  
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health  
Clinical Design and Innovation  
Health Service Executive