



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

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

Violet Anne Wynne
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

1 March 2024

PQ ref 9126/24 To ask the Minister for Health the number of specialist dieticians, nutrition specialists and therapists specialising in eating disorders who work out of Ennis General Hospital through the CAMHS services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Ms Wynne,

The Mid West was not funded for a child eating disorder teams. We are due to have a team for children serving the region. We have submitted a business case to the National Clinical Programme and it is most likely that we will receive a CAMHS eating disorder team.

Currently children in the Mid West with eating disorder (ED) receive their community services in CAMHS. Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence based treatment from ED trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. Children and adolescents with an ED diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to the CAMHS-inpatient-approved centre in Galway by their treating CAMHS consultant. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. These include consideration of their clinical presentation, their level of social and family support and the availability of resources and treatment options in the community.

On occasion, children with an eating disorder in the Mid West need to be medically admitted to ULHG, if the needs relate to the person's physical health. The priority is to stabilise the person from a physical health perspective. As the person begins to stabilise they will be seen by CAMHS or treating mental health team. Once the person's physical health is stabilised care may continue in the community, or an admission to an acute CAMHS inpatient unit may be required.

Staff from the Mid West will be attending a national webinar during Eating Disorder Awareness week in 2024. Integrated care will be a key topic as they introduce Guidelines for the Management of Eating Disorders in the Emergency Department and Launch guidelines for the Management of Anorexia Nervosa in Paediatric Hospitals.

Mental Health Services in the Mid West work very closely with the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders, and we are very keen to develop specific eating disorder teams in the Mid West. We are conscious that we are the only area without specific ED teams. In the meantime we strive to ensure that children presenting with an Eating Disorders receive a clinically effective and timely service from our clinicians in the Mid West. We do have two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) in Eating Disorder working in CAMHS who support evidence based, safe and holistic assessment and management of eating disorders across our CAMHS teams.

The ANPs provide consultations to all of our CAMHS teams to provide expertise and information in the management of ED. We also have a number of Clinical Nurse Specialists who are carrying out Family Based Therapy and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (specific for Eating Disorders). They are supervised and supported by the National Clinical Programme and attend supervision with other ED professionals from around the country.

Yours Sincerely,



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