



Deputy Violet Anne Wynne.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

08<sup>h</sup> May 2024

**PQ Number: 4650/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the proposed telehealth option for those awaiting CAMHS support; the timeline for when this option will come onstream; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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Dear Deputy Wynne,

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. Following clarification received from your office on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

#### **CAMHS Hubs**

Under Phase 1 of implementation of the Model of Care<sup>1</sup>, a CAMHS Hub provides enhanced intensive brief mental health interventions to support Community CAMHS Teams in delivering enhanced responses to children, young people and their families/carers, in times of acute mental health crisis, in the young person's own environment/ community facility or via telehealth facilities and with the active involvement of the young person and their family/carers/supporters and interagency liaison with local partners. Support from these hubs is time-limited, providing intensive intervention and support with sufficient flexibility to respond to different young people's or parent/carer needs. Typically, this entails a range of evidenced informed therapeutic approaches, including medication management, psychotherapeutic based individual, group and family interventions. The service will be child and young person centred, recovery focused and trauma informed.

All referrals to the hub are made via existing CAMHS Community Mental Health Teams, where it is determined that the needs of the young person can be met more effectively in the community, through a rapid response and time-bound, intensive brief intervention.

In this way, these hubs can provide an alternative option to inpatient admission, provided in the young person's own environment/ community facility and with the active involvement of young person and their family, carers and supporters. Children and young people on the CAMHS hub caseload can avail of the tele-health option to receive support from the multi-disciplinary team, however all initial assessments will be done face to face to assess level of risk.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs-hubs/model-of-care-for-camhs-hubs.pdf>



The MOC will be piloted and tested across five learning sites in CHO areas 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8. CHO 2 CAMHS Hub is an advanced Hub site; in development from 2020 onwards. CHO 6 CAMHS hub is operational since May 2023. The remaining sites are awaiting final recruitment of staff. There will be an independent evaluation of the pilot implementation of these services over the testing phase (18 to 24 months) in line with the Standard Operating Procedures and the MOC. This evaluation will inform plans to develop CAMHS Hubs in the future.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michelle Butler', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

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**Michelle Butler**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**