



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
Tel: 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

07th August 2024

PQ ref 33038/24 To ask the Minister for Health his views on the lack of adult psychiatric beds for those with eating disorders in the mid-west region.

Dear Ms Wynne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Adult Services

The Mid West does not have a specialist Eating Disorder team at present and access to specialist eating disorder treatment may require referral to General Adult Community Mental Health Teams. Pathways to access General Adult Mental Health Services are through GP referral, hospital referral or through one of the Mental Health Services Crises Pathways.

When referrals are received and accepted, an appointment is offered and a Mental Health Assessment is completed. The client's needs are identified and a care plan is developed by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). General Adult Community Mental Health teams, do not have Specialist Eating Disorder resources but can liaise with external providers for specialist support and treatment from eating disorder units.

Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services

Children and adolescents with an Eating Disorder 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. Mid West CAMHS have access to two Eating Disorder Advanced Nurse Practitioners who work with all CAMHS teams to support eating disorder clients in the community and reduce the need for hospitalisation.

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 their 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.

Yours Sincerely,

Claire Collier
Acting Head of Service - Mental Health Service,
Mid-West Community Healthcare