



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Seán Crowe
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

15th March 2024

PQ Number: 11210/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the average length of treatment an individual receives in the CAMHS system. –Seán Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The range of mental health services delivered by, or on behalf of, the HSE is extensive and covers both specialist in-patient services, mental health services provided within community and primary care settings, and other non-specialist services and supports. CAMHS provide specialist mental health service to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health teams, such as moderate to severe anxiety disorders, moderate to severe depression, Bi Polar Affective disorder, Psychosis, moderate to severe eating disorders, self-harm that require the input of a multi-disciplinary mental health team.

There are four inpatient CAMHS units in Ireland. Eist Linn CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Cork, Linn Dara CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Dublin South West, Merlin Park CAMHS inpatient unit which is situated in Galway and St Vincent's CAMHS inpatient unit. In addition, there are currently 77 Community based CAMHS teams across the nine CHO areas. Full details of the role and function of CAMHS is available in the CAMHS Clinical Operational Guidelines <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/>

Young people under the care of CAMHS, whether that be in a community or in-patient setting, will all have a unique presentation, even for those whose diagnosis, as outlined above, may be the same as another person. As such, each young person will have their own bespoke Individual Care Plan (ICP) developed by a CAMHS multi-disciplinary clinical team with as much input as possible from the young person and their family. Individuals will respond to clinical interventions such as medication and



talk-therapies in different ways and over different time spans, so it is not possible to give a meaningful answer in terms of the 'average length of treatment' within CAMHS.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Braham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
National Mental Health Services