



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Catherine Connolly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 10.05.2024

PQ Number: 20092/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the roll-out of eating disorder outpatient teams across the country; the number of teams established to-date and the locations of same; the funding allocated to eating disorder outpatient teams in 2023 and 2024; his plans to allocate additional funding to eating disorder outpatient teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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 (May 2024) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

Eating Disorder teams are regional teams serving populations of 500,000. Based on the Model of Care (2018) an adult team serving 500K requires at a minimum 13.4WTE and a CAMHS teams serving 500k requires 14.4 WTEs. The MOC is due for review to take into account the growth in population at the most recent census 2022. The new HSE Health Regions will impact on teams in CHO1, CHO8 and greater Dublin Areas.

Eating Disorders Regional specialist teams	Population	Funded WTEs
1. CAMHS ED CHO 2	453,109	10.2
2. CAMHS CHO4	690,575	13.4
3. CAMHS ED CHO6	549,531	6.0
4. CAMHS ED CHO7/Part CHO8	541,352	12.4
5. CAMHS ED CHO9/ part of CHO8 (Longford/Westmeath/Meath/Louth)	621,405	9.5
6. Adult ED CHO1 (Mini teams – Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal)	257,000	3.2
7. Adult ED CHO1 (Mini teams –Cavan/ Monaghan)	136,000	3.2
8. Adult CHO4	690,575	13.4
9. Adult ED CHO5	510,333	9.7
10. Adult ED CHO6	455,590	10.1
11. Adult ED CHO9 (part of CHO8)	621,405	10.9

Between 2016 and 2022 over €8M has been allocated for investment in eating disorder teams. Funding has been allocated for 100 roles (whole-time equivalent posts) to establish Eating Disorders teams. As of November 2023 over 80 of those roles had been filled (prior to HSE recruitment pause) which is a significant achievement with the current recruitment challenges especially for consultant psychiatrists and dietitians.

New service development funding was provided for Eating Disorders services from 2016-2022 as outlined in the annual breakdown below. As with most areas of health service improvement, additional funding for new developments is available in some years, not every year, and this is determined by the overall HSE annual estimates and budgeting process.

At the end of 2023 there were 15.8WTE unfilled posts which were decommissioned at year end, with a full year funding requirement of €1.4m. Additional 2024 development funding is due to be confirmed by the Department of Health.

A further five teams are planned for in accordance with the Model of Care. The NCP-ED works closely to support recruitment in all Community Health Organisations where funding has been allocated. All sites are committed to filling the posts and creating community eating disorder teams. Once recruited teams are supported by NCP with training and education.

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

The NACGL Mental Health Office is working with Department of Health to reach agreement on funding for 2024.

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

Yours sincerely,



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