



Deputy Alan Farrell,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

11th July 2024

PQ Number: 23028/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if the catchment areas for Linn Dara will be extended to accommodate patients with an eating disorder diagnosis across Dublin and nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Farrell

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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.


The most effective treatment setting is usually in the community, although a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care. Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the CAMHS in-patient approved centres by their treating CAMHS consultant. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives.

- There are four CAMHS in-patient acute units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre in Dublin, St Joseph's Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara.
- There are currently 20 dedicated eating disorder beds across the four 4 CAMHS units. Of the 20 ED beds nationally, Linn Dara and Merlin Park have 14 Specialist ED beds (SEDBs). A SED bed differs somewhat from a 'standard' ED bed in that a Specialist ED bed is one whereby the unit has specially trained staff who can manage NG feeding programmes within the unit.
- The division of the beds is as follows:
 - Linn Dara: 8 SEDBs
 - Merlin Park: 6 SEDBs
 - Eist Linn: 3 ED beds
 - St Vincent's Fairview: 3 ED beds

As part of the new CHI hospital development, there will be an additional 8 Specialist Eating Disorder beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre which will be collocated within the new children's hospital.

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