



Office of the Assistant National Director  
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísi  
Meabhairshláinte FSS

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Deputy Sherlock.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

17th April 2025

**PQ Number: 16647/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health number of regional community-based specialist eating disorder services; the locations of these services; the number of WTE health and social care professionals working in these services both total funded and filled positions, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. Marie Sherlock**

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The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in response to the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE has prioritised eating disorder services as part of National Clinical Programmes (NCPs) and has established a specific clinical programme for eating disorders. The NCPs aim to develop person-centred, integrated care through a clinician-led, evidence-based approach to service reform. The need for specialist services is reflected in Sharing the Vision and more recently in the new Programme for Government. 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.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence-based treatment from eating disorder (ED)-trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE's core focus is on developing regional community-based specialist eating disorder services across CAMHS and adult populations (in line with MOC) provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams, through the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. The table below outlines the teams by HSE Regional area.



## Eating Disorders Regional teams by HSE Regions

Region /population	Current Eating Disorders Teams
<b>HSE Dublin and North East: (1,187,082 population)</b>	Cavan Monaghan – adult team
	Dublin North City and West – CAMHS Team
	Dublin North County – Adult Team
<b>HSE Dublin and Midlands: (1,077,639 population)</b>	Dublin South City and West/Kildare/West Wicklow – CAMHS Team
<b>New 2025</b>	Dublin South West/Kildare – Adult Team in recruitment 2025
<b>New 2025</b>	Midlands - Adult Team in recruitment 2025
<b>HSE Dublin and South East: (971,093 Population)</b>	Carlow Kilkenny/ Tipperary South/Waterford Wexford – Adult Team
	Dublin South and Wicklow – CAMHS Dublin South and Wicklow Adult Team
<b>HSE Mid-West: (413,059 Population) New 2025</b>	CAMHS ED team – Midwest in recruitment 2025
<b>HSE South West: (740,614 population)</b>	CAMHS team Adult team
<b>HSE West and North West: (759,652 population)</b>	CAMHS Team – Galway/Roscommon Adult Team – Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal

### Notes on Table

- While we develop specialist teams across areas there are a number of ANPs and other dedicated staff working in Cavan CAMHS, Donegal, Midlands, South Tipperary CAMHS that are preparing sites and attending all our training and education.
- Since the MOC was published (2018) the population has grown, and this will be reflected in any review.

There has been a significant investment by Government in the development of specialist Eating Disorders Team. Budget 2024 announced the funding of 5 WTEs for Dublin South West to commence an adult eating disorders team and 2 additional WTEs for Dublin South and Wicklow CAMHS team. As a National Clinical Programme we welcome the additional investment in eating disorder teams across the country by Minister Butler in 2025 budget. We have prioritised a number of areas and posts in order to maximise the investment and ensure that services are safe, of high quality and in regions that are ready to establish a service. This will deliver 2 new teams: CAMHS ED team in Mid-West and Adult ED team in Midlands. It will also enable adult ED Teams in Carlow/Kilkenny and Dublin South West to deliver a service across their large catchment area. Fully resourced teams across full catchment areas are necessary to ensure early intervention and to ultimately improve clinical outcomes and reduce costs in the long term.

In addition the Department of Health has funded a number of physician and pediatric consultant posts through Women's Health Fund to improve integrated care between acute hospitals and community eating disorders teams.

**Number of Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) on specialist Eating Disorders Teams.**

As at 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 the current HSCP vacancies (8.5 WTEs across 5 teams) reported by each team are listed in the table below. A vacancy is defined as a post funded and currently vacant. Vacancies can arise on a daily basis, currently maternity leave is not always backfilled. All our teams are Consultant psychiatrist lead and include nursing staff and physicians in addition to HSCPs.

Regional Health Area	WTE	Discipline	Type of vacancy
North Dublin Adult	1	Senior dietitian	
South West Adult	2.5	1 Senior Dietitian 1 Senior Occupational Therapist, 0.5 Psychology	
Dublin and South East CAMHS	1	1.0 Senior clinical psychologist,	maternity leave – due to return 31/3/25
South West CAMHS	1.0	Senior Dietitian	
North Dublin CAMHS	3.0	1 Psychology, 1 Occupational Therapy and 1 Social worker	

In total between 2016- 2024 43 HSCP posts have been funded to date. In 2025 an additional 12 HSCP posts were funded and will be recruited during the year bringing the total to 55 WTEs.

Further information on the HSE National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders can be found here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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