



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
St. Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20
D20HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
D20HK69

www.hse.ie
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e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

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

10 April 2025

PQ Number: 16648/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health when her Department plans to deliver upon the commitment of 16 community-based specialist eating disorder services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Marie Sherlock

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.

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 ED services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

The roll-out of the Model of Care for the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders (NCP-ED) continues to be prioritised by the HSE. Dedicated investment in eating disorders continues in 2025 with an additional €2.4 Million, and the HSE currently spends over €8 million annually on eating disorder services under the Clinical Programme.

The NCP-ED is being implemented across the country by multidisciplinary teams on a phased basis. There are now 11 teams in place: six adult teams and five Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) teams. Six new teams started in 2023, and a new team to cover the area of Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City and Dublin South-West is currently being recruited. This will bring the total number of eating disorder teams nationally to 12.

Funding under Budget 2025 will allow for two additional adult eating disorder teams. This will bring the total number of eating disorder teams nationally to 14 out of the 16 teams envisaged under the Model of Care. In addition, a review of bed capacity across all mental health facilities – including adult eating disorder beds – has taken place and is under consideration by the HSE.



By the end of 2025 each of the 6 new HSE Health Regions will have at least one eating disorders team, some regions will have 2 teams in place and HSE Dublin and South East will have 3 teams operating.

These consultant-led multidisciplinary teams provide specialist ED assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care. There are over 100 posts funded under the NCP-ED, with over 80 eating disorder clinicians, including 10 consultant psychiatrists, treating people with eating disorders. In 2025 additional posts were allocated to enhance some teams and bring them in line with Model of Care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services