

4th March 2025

Mr. Pat Buckley, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 5735/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of specialist teams and dedicated inpatient beds in County Cork for patients suffering from eating disorders.”

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Specialist teams:

- **CAREDS** is the Child and Adolescent Regional Eating Disorder Service for Cork and Kerry. It provides specialist eating disorder care for young people under the age of 18 years who have an eating disorder. This is an outpatient service based in Cork and young people must be physically well enough to be outside of hospital care in order to attend the service.

CAREDS is part of the HSE National Clinical programme for Eating Disorders (NCPED) and CAMHS in HSE South West. It works closely with mental health, medical teams, liaison psychiatry and general practitioners to provide specialist eating disorder care across the region. When young people have additional mental health needs, a shared model of care is operated with their local CAMHS service.

- **Supporting treatment and recovery from Eating Disorders in Adult Meaningfully (STREAM)** is a specialist mental health service that aims to provide support and treatment for the recovery of service users with Eating Disorders in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. STREAM was established in line with the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders. This is an adult service so anyone over the age of 18 can be referred. There is no fee attached to the service so no medical card or health insurance is required.

Inpatient Services:

- We do not provide dedicated adult inpatient beds. When required, we utilise general adult inpatient beds within the service for cases that require inpatient treatment. This ensures availability in all catchment areas and full utilisation of available bed capacity.
- We do not provide dedicated inpatient beds for young persons. Éist Linn is a regional 16 bed Child & Adolescent In-Patient Mental Health unit, located in Bessborough, Cork serving the HSE South West IHA. It is one of four national CAMHS in-patient units. When required, beds are provided for young persons with an eating disorder in Éist Linn.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Declan Cronin
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
HSE South West