



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](http://www.hse.ie)  
@hselive

e: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Sorca Clarke  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

26<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

**PQ Number:** 8061/25

**PQ Question:** To ask the Minister for Health the steps she plans to take to improve access to person-centred child and adolescent mental health services teams. -Sorca Clarke

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Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams.

**HSE's Three-Year Action Plan (February 2025):** The Health Service Executive unveiled a comprehensive plan outlining 16 key actions aimed at reforming child and youth mental health services. The plan emphasizes equitable and timely access to high-quality care, the development of a single point of access for mental health referrals, and the integration of statutory and community services. Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler, highlighted the plan's ambition to lay the foundation for significant improvements in mental health services for children and families. Within this action plan they will be focusing on patient centred child and adolescent mental health services.

More information on 3 year action plan can be found here :

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/publications/hse-child-and-youth-mental-health-office-3-year-action-plan.pdf>

**Budget 2025 Allocation:** An investment of €2.9 million has been designated for CAMHS initiatives. This funding aims to bolster staffing levels, expand CAMHS Hub Teams, enhance the Single Point of Access system, and develop a CAMHS Emergency Department Liaison Service. These measures are intended to improve service accessibility and provide targeted support during critical situations.



Information on CAMHS Operational guidelines can be found here :

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Paul Braham**  
**Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services**