



Office of the Assistant National Director  
Access and Integration

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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí  
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Deputy Sorca Clarke  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

**PQ Number: 33175/25**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the specific targets, timelines, and accountability mechanisms in place to ensure that the commitments made in the Youth Mental Health Action Plan and related strategies result in measurable improvements in access and quality of mental health care for children and adolescents. - Sorca Clarke**

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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.

To deliver on the recommendations within the Maskey Report and MHC Review of CAMHS 2024 and achieve sustainable, lasting improvements to Youth Mental Health Services, a dedicated National Child and Youth Mental Health Office (CYMHO) was established in September 2024. Under the leadership of the Assistant National Director and National Clinical Lead, the office has oversight of service delivery and improvement programmes related to child and youth mental health. The CYMHO published its 3 year Action Plan in February 2025.

There are robust governance and accountability mechanisms in place to ensure that the commitments made in the CYMH Action plan result in measurable improvements. The HSE established a National Oversight Group to oversee child and youth mental health service improvement and this group is jointly chaired by the HSE's Chief Operations Officer, Chief Clinical Officer and a Regional Executive Officer. This oversight group reports to the HSE Board Committees as required and ensures the CYMH Action Plan delivery is aligned with wider HSE policy, legislative, regulatory developments and standards.



A Child and Youth Mental Health Programme board has also been established which reports to the National Oversight Group. Led by the Assistant National Director and the National Clinical Lead for Child and Youth Mental Health, this board oversees the implementation of the Action Plan. Key functions of the board are to develop the strategic plan for the programme, define and communicate the vision for the programme, provide day to day strategic direction to the programme including evaluation of progress, ongoing prioritisation of work and provision of expert advice to the teams executing the programme.

Three delivery groups have been established to lead out on all 16 action plan themes. Each delivery group is being led by a General Manager and/or Senior Operations Manager. Each delivery group lead is responsible for overseeing the planning, prioritisation and delivery of all themes and workstreams. Each delivery group lead reports to the Programme Board on progress, risks and milestones.

Service Users are involved at all levels of Governance including the National Oversight Group and the Programme Board.

The CYMH Action plan sets out 16 key themes for the comprehensive reform of child and youth mental health services in Ireland. Each action area is classified as short, medium or long term. Short-term actions are either those that are already underway and will be enhanced or extended or those that are likely to take less than 18 months to deliver. Medium-term actions are those that require a strategic approach. They may require service re-design and are likely to take up to 24 months to deliver. Long-term actions are those that will require significant change and are likely to take a minimum of two to three years to deliver. Given the transformational nature of several of these actions, full implementation and embedding into practice may take more than three years.

The HSE CYMHO is committed to monitoring progress, identifying gaps in provision and measuring impact. As such a key programme priority is the establishment of a Learning Health System approach, and in particular the development of a National Outcomes Framework, to ensure a data-driven, best practice approach is taken to service improvement.

The Outcomes Framework will support the measurement of both implementation progress and the impact of improvements at service and system levels. In addition, it will include the use of Routine Outcome Measures, embedded within the new CAMHS Electronic Health Record, enabling services



to routinely monitor, review, and report on clinical outcomes over time. This work reflects the CYMHO's commitment to building a more data-driven, outcomes-focused, and continuously improving mental health system for children and young people.

While the plan outlines actions over a three year period up to the end of 2027, we expect its full implementation will take significantly longer in some instances due to the transformational nature of some of the programmes of work. There are critical factors required to support this ambitious plan including dedicated multi-annual funding; strong clinical governance and leadership in the six Health Regions; integrated information systems such as an electronic health record for CAMHS; support from our stakeholders including government, key statutory and voluntary agencies, our staff and young people and their parents.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Sarah Hennessey**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**