



Johnny Guirke TD
Sinn Féin
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

email: johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie

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PQ22183/25: To ask the Minister for Health the funding that is required on an annual basis for the model of care for Psycho-Oncology services for patients aged 0-24 years and their families; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The CAYA Psycho-Oncology Model of Care was published in 2023 to address the psychosocial needs of children, adolescents, and young adults (CAYA) with cancer. It recommends the enhancement of the dedicated Multi-Disciplinary Psycho-Oncology Teams (MDTs) within Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin, as well as in the three national AYA cancer centres: Galway University Hospital (GUH), Cork University Hospital (CUH), and St. James's Hospital (SJH), along with the St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON).

For paediatric services, the core Psycho-Oncology MDT includes professionals from psychology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, nursing, social work, play therapy, occupational therapy, and music therapy—reflecting the broad, developmentally sensitive support required by children and their families. For AYA services, the core MDT comprises psychology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, occupational therapy, and a youth support worker, ensuring age-appropriate, holistic care that addresses the unique psychosocial challenges faced by adolescents and young adults with cancer.

Determining the precise annual funding required for implementing the Psycho-Oncology Model of Care for patients aged 0–24 years and their families necessitates a review of service needs, staffing, and infrastructure across various sites. This assessment has not taken place yet due to several key developments – one of which is the transition to the new National Children's Hospital, expected to be operational in 2026. This development is anticipated to influence staffing configurations and resource allocations for Psycho-Oncology services. Additionally, the ongoing implementation of the AYA Cancer Service Network will further inform resource planning. Annual funding requirements would depend on staffing levels, service scope, and regional needs.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Mullen

National Lead for Cancer Survivorship | Psycho-Oncology Programme | Patient Engagement

National Cancer Control Programme



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Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt