

27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 23561/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the actions, she is taking to support children with eating disorders (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter”**

**Details supplied: “Minister I have been contacted by parents with children who have various types of eating disorders in Kerry. While they are grateful for services they do get they believe we do not do enough for them. Can the Minister give me a detailed explanation as to what we are doing for children with eating disorders and what services are available to them and what is envisaged in trying to help further by having more services for them.”**

Dear Minister Healy-Rae,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Outpatient services are currently delivered jointly by CAMHS Kerry and the Child and Adolescent Regional Eating Disorder Service (CAREDS) South West. These services encompass comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment interventions. Treatment modalities include Family-Based Therapy, CBT-E, physical health monitoring, medical risk management, meal coaching, psychiatric reviews, and a parent support group.

Over the past year, the service has expanded to include a range of specialist group interventions. These include Radically Open Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (RO-DBT), a six-day intensive Multifamily Therapy Programme for Anorexia Nervosa, the Connecting Families Programme, and an Art Therapy initiative. These programmes have been made available to families across the region.

CAREDS also operates a weekly consultation clinic for local CAMHS teams, offering case-based support, clinical resources, and guidance. The service maintains close liaison with acute hospitals and inpatient units to facilitate timely admissions when required.

Looking ahead, we plan to further enhance the service by expanding the CAREDS Specialist Group Programme and recruiting a dedicated Dietitian to the multidisciplinary team. In the longer term, we are working towards the development of an eight-week day programme. This initiative aims to provide an alternative to inpatient care for suitable young people and aligns with the strategic objectives of the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders.

We remain committed to delivering high-quality, accessible, and person-centred care to young people and families affected by eating disorders in the Kerry region.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Declan Cronin**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**