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

26th June 2025

PQ Number: 24129/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the location of each CAMHS-ID facility in the country; the staffing cohort at each facility; the number of patients benefiting from the services therein, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -John Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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 Intellectual Disability (CAMHS ID) provide assessment and treatment for children/young people with a moderate to profound ID and symptoms of a moderate to severe mental disorder.

While a broad range of services support the mental health of children and adolescents, the term CAMHS refers to specialist mental health services for young people up to 18 years of age who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of a moderate to severe mental health disorder (for example a depressive illness, psychosis, a moderate to severe anxiety disorder that has not responded to primary care intervention or moderate to severe ADHD). Children referred to CAMHS ID services typically experience impairment in their functioning as a result of their mental illness, across two or more settings.

The needs of children/young people with intellectual disabilities are generally best met in services such as HSE Primary Care and HSE Disability services, who provide intervention to support their disability. However, some children/young people may have symptoms of a moderate or severe mental disorder in addition to their intellectual disability, which can mean that their treatment needs are more complex.

Mental health services for children and adolescents with a moderate to profound intellectual disability and symptoms of a moderate to severe mental disorder, should be provided by specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - Intellectual Disability (CAMHS-ID). CAMHS ID teams are catchment area-based. These multidisciplinary teams should be provided on the basis of one team per 300,000 population. As per the 2022 census figures, there should be sixteen CAMHS ID teams nationally.



These specialist mental health services are distinct and separate from, but closely linked to, the interdisciplinary Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT), who provide a health and social care approach for children with intellectual disability.

The core multidisciplinary team to deliver mental health services to children with intellectual disability and a mental disorder and or challenging behaviour (where mental illness is an aetiological factor) should comprise key individuals from the disciplines of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy (OT) and speech and language therapy (SLT), in addition to an administrator.

The development CAMHS-ID teams in the community help to play a significant role in improving integrated care across primary care, disability services and acute hospital services.

The table below provides information on the location of CAMHS ID community teams by health region.

Health Region	MHID CAMHS Team Code	MHID CAMHS Team Name
WNW	1	Mayo
	2	Galway and Roscommon
SW	3	South Lee - Intellectual Disability CAMHS
DSE	9	South East MHID CAMHS
DML	4	Linndara - Tallaght
	5	Linndara - Kildare/West Wicklow
	6	MH & ID/YAMHS Longford Westmeath
DNE	7	North Dublin CAMHS-ID
	8	Avista CAMHS ID

** for purposes of KPI reporting, the above teams are classified as regular community CAMHS teams*

Nationally CAMHS ID teams are resourced to approximately 25% of a Vision for Change recommendations. Some parts of the country have no CAMHS ID team or a Consultant child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (CAP) working alone with no MDT or with one or two MDT members. The Model of Service CAMHS ID recommends collecting KPIs for CAMHS ID teams nationally, once they reach a baseline level of staffing of 1 CAP, 1 Clinical Nurse Specialist, 1 Senior Psychologist or equivalent and 1 Administrator per 300,000 of the population. Only six CAMHS ID teams nationally are resourced to baseline level; in CHO 7, CHO 9, one team in CHO 2 and CHO 3.

There are no national specialist acute in-patient units for children or young people with intellectual disability in the moderate to profound range in Ireland. Children with ID presenting with acute mental illness are treated by CAMHS ID teams in the community where they are available or in paediatric hospitals.



Further information can be found by consulting with the Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for Children with Intellectual Disability (CAMHS-ID) National Model of Service available here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/camhs-id-model-of-service/camhs-id-model-of-service.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Hennessy
General Manager
HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office