



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 3rd July 2025

PQ Number: 28701/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost revenue and capital, and staffing requirements for implementing the eating disorder services model of care in full. - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The HSE has prioritised eating disorder services as part of National Clinical Programmes (NCPs) and has established a specific clinical programme for eating disorders. The NCPs aim to develop person-centred, integrated care through a clinician-led, evidence-based approach to service reform. The need for specialist services is reflected in Sharing the Vision and more recently in the new Programme for Government. In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence-based treatment from eating disorder (ED)-trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE's core focus is on developing regional community-based specialist eating disorder services across CAMHS and adult populations (in line with MOC) provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams, through the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders.

There has been a significant investment by Government in the development of specialist Eating Disorders Team. Budget 2024 announced the funding of 5 WTEs for Dublin South West to commence an adult eating disorders team and 2 additional WTEs for Dublin South and Wicklow CAMHS team. As a National Clinical Programme we welcome the additional investment in eating disorder teams across the country by Minister Butler in 2025 budget. We have prioritised a number of areas and posts in order to maximise the investment and ensure that services are safe, of high quality and in regions that are ready to establish a service. This

will deliver 2 new teams: CAMHS ED team in Mid-West and Adult ED team in Midlands. It will also enable adult ED Teams in Carlow/Kilkenny and Dublin South West to deliver a service across their large catchment area. Fully resourced teams across full catchment areas are necessary to ensure early intervention and to ultimately improve clinical outcomes and reduce costs in the long term.

In addition the Department of Health has funded a number of physician and pediatric consultant posts through Women's Health Fund to improve integrated care between acute hospitals and community eating disorders teams.

Since 2016 €8.9 million in funding has been allocated to the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders (NCP-ED) and the roll-out of the Model of Care for the NCP-ED continues to be prioritised. The HSE currently spends €7.7m million annually on eating disorder services under the Clinical Programme and dedicated investment continues with an additional €2.4 Million allocated in Budget 2025 – full year costs.

Based on current Model of Care each adult Eating Disorders Team serving a population of 500,000 will require up to 15 WTEs (ranging from medical, nursing, psychology, dietetics, social work, occupational therapy). The current estimated cost to fund the WTEs is just over €1.6M for a new team. In addition teams will require capital budget for a team premises, this cost varies by county and available suitable premises. Access to high quality evidence based training and education budget is required to become skilled in delivery of evidence based treatments. Currently this training budget is funding from central mental health funding, it is estimated that an annual budget of €80k is required for 14 teams.

Capital Costs - Inpatient beds: The capital costs associated with any infrastructural project are subject to a number of project specific aspects such as location and site, availability and condition of services, availability and condition of access, topography, ground conditions, new build or refurbishment etc. In addition associated accommodation requirements could have a significant impact on costs i.e. 10 in-patient beds will require associated support accommodation, and may not necessarily be constructed in isolation. Given the aforementioned variables and the availability of cost data specific to in-patient accommodation associated with an eating disorder unit, it is unfortunately not possible to provide such specific costs.

The HSE capital plan 2025 has identified the provision of 5 new mental health approved centers, the National Mental Health Office and NCP are working with the HSE Regions to ensure that where appropriate and in line with MOC dedicated eating disorders beds are included in the design brief.

Further information on the HSE National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
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Clinical Design and Innovation
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