

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – CHO 5

2017 Inspection Report

Community Healthcare Organisation:
CHO 5

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Introduction

In 2017, the Inspector of Mental Health Services sought information from each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in their area. Information was collected by questionnaire on 15 September 2017 and a meeting held with the Executive Clinical Directors, and Head of Mental Health for the CHO.

Description

Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) 5 consisted of Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary. It had seven Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) teams: four teams in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and three teams in Waterford/Wexford. Twenty-five percent of its population was under 18 years. CHO 5 was the second most deprived area nationally.

CHO 5 Profile	
Total population	511,773
Population under 18	131,522
CAMHS funding	€5,199,563
Per capita funding for under 18's	€39.53
Number of CAMHS teams recommended in <i>A Vision for Change</i>	10
Actual number of CAMHS Teams	7

Staffing

CHO 5 CAMHS Staffing Profile	Number (WTE)*	<i>A Vision for Change</i> recommendations	% <i>A Vision for Change</i> recommendations in place
Consultant Psychiatrist	7.6 (1 agency locum)	10	76%
Doctor in training	5	10	50%
Psychologist	8	20	40%
Occupational Therapist	7	10	70%
Social worker	6	20	30%
Social care staff	3	10	30%
Nursing staff	13	20	65%
Speech and language	5.5	10	55%
Total	55.1	110	50%

*WTE: Whole Time Equivalent

CHO 5 CAMHS Vacancies (post approved but not filled)	Number (WTE)
Consultant Psychiatrist	0.4
Doctor in training	0
Psychologist	0.8
Occupational Therapist	0
Social worker	0
Social care staff	1
Nursing staff	0
Speech and language	1.2
Dietician	1.2

Waiting times

At the end of November 2017, 46 young people were waiting for appointments for between 3 to 6 months.

CHO 5 CAMHS Waiting times – From time of referral to first assessment	
Emergency	24 hours - 1 week
Urgent	1 - 4 weeks
Non-urgent	6 weeks - 6 months

CHO 5 CAMHS Waiting times – From first assessment to follow-up appointment	
Emergency	24 -72 hours
Urgent	72 hours to 4 weeks
Non-urgent	1 week – 6 months

Waiting list initiatives

Gorey/Enniscorthy CAMHS team had targeted the waiting lists which had resulted in no young person waiting for more than six months.

Access to care and treatment

Access to Eist Linn in-patient unit had been difficult for young people in CHO 5. Six young people referred to CAMHS had to be accommodated in the private sector. There were 19 children admitted to adult mental health units.

CHO 5 Access to in-patient CAMHS facilities

Eist Linn in-patient unit, Cork	20 beds
Children admitted to adult mental health units in 2017	19
Children treated abroad for mental illness in 2017	0

CHO 5 CAMHS Access

CAMHS out of hours cover provided to emergency departments	No
CAMHS team input if child admitted to adult unit	Yes
Provision of CAMHS to 17 year olds	Yes

Young people and family involvement

- The Area Lead for Mental Health Engagement was initially focusing on general adult mental health services.
- There was no other young people or family engagement in the CAMHS service.

Quality initiatives

- A CHO 5 CAMHS group had been set up to consider governance arrangements, infrastructure and access to CAMHS beds.
- The CHO 5 Programme Management Office had commenced the development of a five-year strategic plan for CAMHS.
- CAMHS had coordinated the response to the development of the Children's and Young People's Plan in conjunction with Children and Young People Services Committee.
- CAMHS information was included in the CHO 5 Directory of Services.

Challenges

- Access to CAMHS in-patient beds was a significant challenge for CHO 5. Eist Linn in Cork was the nearest CAMHS in-patient bed but sourcing a bed was difficult.
- Provision of an after-hours service was challenging.
- Recruitment of CAMHS consultant psychiatrists was difficult. There was funding for nine consultant psychiatrists but only 7.6 were in place.
- Accommodation for teams and clinical space required improvement and there had been a lack of investment in this area. As teams expanded in size, their accommodation had been challenging.
- There was a lack of primary care psychologists, resulting in inappropriate referrals to CAMHS.

Conclusion

One of the main challenges for CHO 5 was access to CAMHS in-patient beds. This had resulted in children and young people being admitted to adult psychiatric units in Waterford and Kilkenny, some of whom have lengthy stays. A concerted effort by CAMHS teams had reduced waiting times to a maximum of six months.