



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

HSE South,  
South Tipperary Mental Health Services,  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services  
CAMHS Team 1  
Glennconor Road,  
Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary.

Telephone: (052) 6177436  
Fax: (052) 6177432

[CapacityReview@health.gov.ie](mailto:CapacityReview@health.gov.ie)

7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### To Whom it Concerns

#### Response to the Public Consultation for Capacity Review 2017

1. Due to the lack of any meaningful access to in-patient child psychiatric beds, acutely unwell children are frequently advised to attend the local A&E for admission to a paediatric ward until such time as an appropriate bed arises or the psychiatric crisis is managed. Quite separate to the distress experienced by such young people, already busy A&E departments or busy in-patient wards lose capacity due to the need to care for such children in the absence of other more appropriate specialised inpatient resources from them. Therefore the Capacity Review should consider how immediate access to in-patient beds for acute child psychiatric patients who require them would avoid inappropriate use of Hospital resources.
2. Other complex cases that present to Paediatric Hospitals may have prolonged admission times which again erodes capacity in the Hospital. It is well established that dedicated Liaison Psychiatric Services can reduce the number of bed days required by such patients. Therefore the population of Liaison Psychiatry Teams in Paediatric Units to support assessments in A&E and in Paediatric Units would facilitate earlier discharges towards appropriate community services or acute child psychiatric in-patient care. It would again preserve general hospital capacity and allow the most efficient use of Hospital resources.
3. It can be expected that adequate resourcing of community services including Primary Care Psychology and Social Work and in addition TUSLA Services would have a preventative effect, avoiding children presenting in psychosocial crisis to A/E.
4. Specifically resourcing of Community CAMHS Psychiatric Services as per Vision for Change would enhance capacity appropriate needs being met in the community and also averting crisis that results in young people presenting to A&E in crisis eroding capacity in hospitals.
5. The specific resources that should be prioritised include - the appointment of a CAMHS Team Co-Ordinator per team to ensure the efficient use of resources. The resolution of the current recruitment crisis for Consultants. Recruitment of Locums for Consultants who are on holidays would again reduce inappropriate crisis presentations to A&E and inappropriate erosion of capacity within Hospitals.
6. Provision of more in-patient child psychiatric beds which can be accessed on a same day basis rather than resulting in presentation to A/E for safe admission with nursing specials until bed can become available.
7. Identification of a national bed manager for same inpatient beds support hospitals in discharging children awaiting inpatient admission to a child psychiatric unit.

I hope this is useful.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Dr. Shauna McCarthy**  
**MB BCh BAO, MSc, MRCPsych**  
**Consultant Paediatric Psychiatrist**  
**MCRN 18408**