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From: Begley, Yvonne
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To: team@kildarestreet.com
Subject: CAMHS survey by Senator Freeman

I heard Joan Freeman talk on Rte yesterday about a survey she is conducting to elicit the views of CAMHS service users

She mentioned towards the end of her interview that she was also hoping to hear from service providers in CAMHS

And that the closing date was 12/05/17

I was surprised by this as I was not aware of this request for information from ourselves until I heard this radio interview

I would be happy to provide Senator Freeman with any information she requires about CAMHS in the Mid West for her survey

Briefly we have operated a same day assessment and treatment service for any young person presenting with acute mental health problems including suicidality and self harm for about 15 yrs

Any concerned individual who contacts CAMHS will get a call back from one of the CAMHS team and if necessary an appointment will be arranged for the young person and their family the same day

Cases already open to the service as well as young people we have not met before can access the service

The young person is then assessed by a member of the team which covers the area where they live and a care plan is made on how to proceed

The assessment is carried out by fully trained CAMHS staff with direct access to consultant supervision at all times

It is available during office hours Monday to Friday

Outside these hours young people are usually sent to the local A and E dept where they are assessed initially by a psychiatric Crisis Nurse and/or psychiatric trainee doctor who then discuss them with the on call consultant

There are six consultants in the Midwest who provide 24/7 cover for emergencies and inpatients in Limerick University Hospital available at all times

Last year we had 2000 referrals of which 25% came through our emergency system

I am aware of difficulties reported in many parts of Ireland for families trying to access urgent or immediate mental health assessment and treatment but this is not the case in the mid west and I would personally like to hear of anyone in this area who is experiencing such a difficulty as we have set out for many years to make our service as accessible as possible

Thank you for your interest in this matter

Dr Yvonne Begley

CAMHS consultant Limerick