

**Submission from Mental Health Reform (MHR) and the Children’s Mental Health Coalition (CMHC) to the UNCRC – Ireland
Thematic Report on Mental Health - Additional Information**

13th December 2022

Section 25(a)

“Address the mental health needs of children, including through the implementation of the national mental health policy, amend the Mental Health Act 2001 and implement the Mental Health (Amendment) Act 2018”

1. There is no date for the introduction of the Bill to reform the 2001 Mental Health Act; no date of commencement for the 2018 Act and at the time of examination on Jan 24th and 25th, the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Bill 2022 will have been signed into law by our President and enacted without extending rights to 16 and 17 year olds to consent to or refuse treatment for mental healthcare.

Section 25(b)

“Improve the capacity and quality of mental healthcare services for children and adolescents, including inpatient treatment, out-of-hours facilities and facilities for treating eating disorders”

2. At the time of writing (13/12/22) there has been no clear breakdown of the Budget 2023 Mental Health allocations. The National Clinical Programme for eating disorders has not been informed of its allocation for next year. Budget Day was September 27th and it is unacceptable that services do not yet know what their budgets will be in 2023.

Section 25(c)

“Establish a mental health advocacy and information service that is specifically for children and accessible and child-friendly”

3. The only youth advocacy service is the Youth Advocate Programmes and this is only available in a small number of units and for inpatient care. There were no provisions made in Budget 2023 to expand access to youth advocacy.

Paragraph 12 - Right to life, survival and development

“Please provide information on the measures taken to prevent and address the root causes of suicide among children and adolescents”



4. Published on December 5th, the Healthy Ireland Survey 2022¹ results showed worrying trends in youth mental health with 10% of under 35s saying that they had attempted suicide during the year. CAMHS waiting lists continue to grow and the Pathfinder Project has not been implemented.

Who We Are

Mental Health Reform (MHR) is Ireland's leading national coalition on mental health. Our vision is of an Ireland where everyone can access the support they need in their community, to achieve their best possible mental health. We drive the progressive reform of mental health services and supports, through coordination and policy development, research and innovation, accountability and collective advocacy. Together with our 80 member organisations and thousands of individual supporters, MHR provides a unified voice to the Government, its agencies, the Oireachtas and the general public on mental health issues.

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government supporting communities

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¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9e67-healthy-ireland-survey-2022/>

