

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Child mental health issues are a priority for the GSLP-Liberal administration

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Hon Neil Costa MP has declared that more energy than ever is going into looking at mental health provision for children and adolescents in Gibraltar.

In response to criticisms from the Mental Welfare Society regarding an alleged lack of support for mental health patients at an early age, Mr Costa declared that qualified professionals in the GHA are working together in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Committee (CAMHS) to assess the current needs and come up with recommendations to improve what is provided.

Mr Costa declared that already, there is more training than ever into mental health issues and related conditions and that at the end of last year, there was a day long mental health workshop for teachers, youth workers and other professionals organized by the GHA's clinical psychologist.

The Minister declared that the regularity of visits by the Child Psychiatrist to schools has also increased over the last four years.

Minister Costa added: "We take note of the comments by the Mental Welfare Society as valued stakeholders and partners in our shared pursuit of better mental health care and support for vulnerable sectors of the community. The GSLP-Liberal administration considers mental health care as a priority area in the community and will continue to work together with the professional teams in the GHA and other professionals to further expand and improve services during our term of office."