



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Social Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
c/o Community Care Headquarters  
James' Green

Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600  
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28<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Mr. Mick Wallace T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 46908-18**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for residential care for adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford; and the estimated waiting time for such care.**

Dear Deputy Wallace

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The provision of residential services has come under further pressure in recent years. There is an increase in the number of persons (children and adults) that are seeking access to these services. In addition there are increasing levels of “changing needs” among existing residential service users who require increased supports. The need for increased residential facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various options to respond to this need in line with resources available.

The HSE National Policy on managing residential placement came into effect in 2016 with implementation across the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) areas toward the end of 2017 and early 2018. The purpose of the policy is:

- to ensure an equitable transparent and consistent practice regarding the prioritisation of need of applicants for residential supports is implemented across and within the SECH areas
- to ensure measures are put in place to ensure residential placement and supports are only considered when all other options such as respite and in home supports have been exhausted
- A robust review and regular monitoring of the current configuration or delivery of services takes place

Under the policy emergency needs for residential supports may be defined as urgent situations, where current care and /or support arrangement cannot meet the assessed needs of the service user and an alternative residential support or placement must be made available.

Criteria that is applied in this cases is:

- Sudden unavailability of primary carer due to sudden illness or death
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of being abused
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of abusing others

In line with present procedures all residential care requests (South East) and associated information is included on the South East Disability Supports Application Management Tool (DSAMT). The DSAMT advises the waiting lists for residential care. However we have recently been advised that Section 38 and 39 agencies maintain their own waiting list. Currently the HSE are validating these lists to ensure all residential placement requests are maintained on one waiting list which will be the DSAMT in line with the present procedures. The current DSAMT waiting list held by the HSE has 9 clients awaiting residential care.

The disability residential services are not demand led and must operate within an annual finite budget. Therefore at the time it is not possible to estimate how long a client may wait due to the changing needs of clients. In addition there are also emergency residential placement requests arising (e.g. carer critical illness).

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Patricia McEvoy**  
**General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare**