



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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12th November 2018

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 47031/18 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in State care on CAMHS waiting lists by county for periods (details supplied), in tabular form; the other mental health supports available to children in the care of the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Thomas P. Broughan

Dear Deputy Broughan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE do not collect information on the number of children in state care on the CAMHS waiting list because our data is not broken down according to care status.

All referrals of children and adolescents to CAMHS services are triaged according to the clinical information contained in the referral. Clinical decisions are then made with regard to whether the referral is appropriate for a specialist mental health service and the prioritisation status of the referral. HSE mental health services consider the mental health needs of all young people referred regardless of their care status.

CAMHS is a specialist mental health service that takes referrals from primary care practitioners when the mental health needs of the young person is within the moderate to severe range. It is important that children and adolescents have access to psychological supports before their needs reach the threshold where they require specialist mental health services. The delivery of supports at this level can prevent escalation to specialist mental health services.

The HSE provides psychology supports in primary care and it also funds Jigsaw to provide early intervention for young people with emerging mental health difficulties. The child and family agency are responsible for the care needs of young people in the care of the state including the provision of services relating to the psychological welfare of children and their families. The child and family agency may have information on numbers of children in care who are on waiting lists for CAMHS.

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I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services