

16th April 2019

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ Number: 15131 /19

“To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for CAMHS services for an area (details supplied); the average waiting time; and his plans to address this.”

Details supplied: The South West Ward Ballincollig Cork city

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. All referrals received to CAMHS services are triaged in a timely manner and the referral is either accepted or rejected at that point. Referrals accepted are wait listed in order of clinical priority and wait lists vary across each sector based community team.

There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork, supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit. I note your representation is specific to the Ballincollig area which falls under the catchment of CAMHS South Lee 2 team.

Acknowledging the significant challenges in the provision of CAMHS services, the CAMHS Enhancement Project commenced at the end of September 2017. As a priority, the initial focus has been on reducing waiting times in excess of 12 months in Cork and Kerry, however in the longer term the project will address both system and culture practice changes to improve access to CAMHS. The initial priority has been to focus on the 4 teams with the longest waiting times at that time, South Lee 2 was one of these teams.

Efforts to date have resulted in considerable improvements in efficiency. Work to date with the South Lee 2 Team has resulted in a significant reduction in waiting list numbers from 89 in October 2017 (shortly after the CAMHS Enhancement Project commenced) to 21 as at March 2019. This is against a backdrop of an overall 10% increase in referral rate. Young people waiting over 12 months to be seen by this team have also reduced from 39 In October 2017 to 0 as per March 2019 data.

A range of initiatives were introduced to enable these improvements.

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
General Manager
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare