



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Deputy Pat Buckley TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

PQ 15524/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adolescents waiting for an initial mental health assessment by region, CHO and the length of time each has been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pat Buckley

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

Total no. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS		Reporting Period February 2019						
		≤ 3 months	>3-≤ 6 months	>6-≤ 9 months	>9- ≤12 months	>12- ≤15 months	>15- ≤18 months	> 18 months
	<b>Total waiting</b>							
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>120</b>
CHO 1	279	161	66	27	25	0	0	0
CHO 2	20	19	1	0	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	222	68	37	40	17	23	20	17
CHO 4	700	205	123	76	100	61	36	99
CHO 5	238	119	37	18	28	17	16	3
CHO 6	396	219	112	34	31	0	0	0
CHO 7	162	122	32	7	1	0	0	0
CHO 8	345	205	96	25	12	5	1	1
CHO 9	221	118	54	29	16	2	2	0

A number of actions are underway to address waiting lists:

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- The CAMHS Waiting List Initiative which is focussing on ensuring that no-one is waiting over 12 months is continuing despite the challenges presented by the level of vacancies and the difficulty in recruiting. Where there are recruitment gaps, Community Healthcare Organisations make significant efforts to fill positions on a permanent basis while also looking at the possibility of vacancies being filled on an interim or temporary basis in order to ensure the least impact on service provision.
- In 2018, 114 new Assistant Psychologists and 20 psychologists were recruited to assist Primary Care Teams in their provision of psychological intervention for young people. These posts are designed to ensure that young people whose clinical needs are at primary care level receive appropriate intervention and do not end up on secondary care waiting lists due to lack of appropriate assessment and resources in primary care.
- The Minister announced the recruitment of 10 new posts for Advance Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) which will enhance the current service. Working within multidisciplinary CAMHS teams these new ANPs will play a key role in delivering improved access, reduced waiting lists and increased sustainability of service delivery.
- There are also an additional 20 CAMHS beds planned for the new children's hospital and an additional 10 forensic CAMHS beds in the National Forensic Mental Health Service.
- HSE Primary Care has developed a computerised cognitive behavioural therapy called eWell for young People 12-18 Years. Designed by the HSE, working in collaboration with Mental Health Reform (MHR) & HSE Service Users for the past 4 years and more recently Reachout Ireland. The aspiration is that this program will empower service-users to develop a Mental Health skill-set, whereby users acquire skills that will increase self-awareness, coping strategies and psychological resilience. Training for this programme is currently underway.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services

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