Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
T 01 6207304 R: Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

5th April, 2019

Deputy James Browne, TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 15814/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each Local Health Office area waiting for a child and adolescent mental health services appointment at the end of March 2019 or the latest date available; and the number waiting zero to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks, respectively - James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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						
		Total waiting	≤ 3 months	>3-≤ 6 months	>6-≤ 9 months	>9- ≤12 months	>12- ≤15 months	>15- ≤18 months	> 18 months
National Total	**2,583**		**1,236**	**558**	**256**	**230**	**108**	**75**	**120**
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

Building a Better Health Service

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A number of actions are underway to address waiting lists:

- 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,

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Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Service

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