

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of Head of Primary Care
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29th April, 2019

Mr. Mattie McGrath, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 17881/19

"To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 4 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy McGrath,

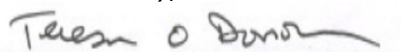
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Primary Care provides Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services to adults and children and eligibility is not age or means dependent. However, for clinical reasons, patients under the care of specialist services are not eligible for primary care SLT unless as part of a shared care agreement. This includes children with Early Intervention Teams/Network Disability Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Following receipt of a referral children are initially assessed and, depending on the outcome of this clinical assessment, are waitlisted for the appropriate intervention. Given that the resources available to the service are finite children are prioritised for intervention in line with their assessed need

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare