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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Telephone 353 56 7784100

16th April 2019

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 17882/19

To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 5 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 (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the position.

Children in Waterford can access services from ages 0-18 years. In the disability service where a child transitions to school they are transferred from Early Intervention to School Aged Services.

In Wexford Speech & Language Therapy operate a paediatric Service for children 0-18years. All children are assessed and where appropriate Speech & Language Therapy intervention will be offered regardless of age.

In Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary all children under 18 years of age with an identified need are eligible for the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

The service aims to assess all new referrals within 4 months of receipt of referral. Following assessment, children are typically placed on a waiting list for therapy/care pathway according to clinical priority and need for intervention. When a child is called from the waiting list he/she will typically be offered an episode of therapy following which progress and priority need for further intervention will be reviewed. The child may be placed on review or on a waiting list for further therapy as appropriate

The child will be discharged when he/she is no longer in receipt of service and his/her file is closed in accordance with local service definitions and professional best practice. Discharge from the service is not age dependant.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare