



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara

Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
Tel: 045 882 527

23rd April 2019

Mattie McGrath
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 17884/19

To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 7 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 regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Children with Speech and Language Therapy needs aged 0-18 in Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare, access services within Primary Care and Social Care. Early intervention teams will see children until their sixth birthday and then they transfer to School Age Teams.

Intervention for children on Primary Care and Social Care Speech and Language Therapy waiting lists is not age-related. It is strengths-based and evidence-based. Intervention can be delivered individually or in groups, through parents, educational staff or through home programmes. Some intervention is Speech and Language Therapy specific and some intervention is multi-disciplinary team-based.

There are lengthy waiting lists currently to access some services due to staffing vacancies. However the Health Service Executive is endeavouring to streamline services in an effort to improve access times for all service users.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service
Primary Care