

18th December 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 51001/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for assessment by early intervention teams in each LHO area in CHO 4 at the end of November 2019 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 9, 9 to 12, 12 to 18, 18 to 24 and more than 24 months, respectively.”

Dear Deputy O'Mahony,

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

Early Intervention occurs when trained professionals provide assessments and intervention therapies to children who may have a developmental delay or a disability and who need a period of on-going assistance from 2 or more member of a multidisciplinary team.

In Cork North and Cork South, Early Intervention services are available to children from birth to 5 years 11 months.

	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-18 Months	18-24 Months	18-24 Months	>24 Months
South Lee	0	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Lee	11	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
North Cork	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Cork	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figures for children from birth to 5 years 11months

Figures at start December 2019

Disability Services does not gather data for Early Intervention in the format you have requested in Kerry as it has reconfigured to the Progressing Disability Services model. The figures below are for all children under the age of 18 years who are waiting for intervention therapies.

Kerry

	0-4 Months	4 Months & 1 Day – 8 Months	8 months 1 Day – 12 Months	12 Months & 1 Day – 18 Months	18 Months & 1 Day – 24 Months	24+ Months
	33	18	6	5		

Figures are for children from birth – 18 years of age

Figures at the start December 2019

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare area will be re-configuring Childrens' Services in the Cork area with the roll out Progressing Disabilities (PDS) for Children in 2020. As advised services in Kerry and in West Cork have already re-configured and are now structured according to the PDS model. The

aforementioned area will have 10 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) once the reconfiguration is complete

Reconfiguration of Children's services in Kerry has already taken place. ASD assessments in Kerry are carried out by a multidisciplinary team, in line with best practice guidelines, which includes a Psychologist and Speech & Language Therapist/ Occupational Therapist.

Waiting lists for children attending Kerry Disability Network teams that require an ASD assessment are currently between 18 to 24 months and while this number continues to grow due to the increase in numbers of children presenting with characteristics associated with ASD, the children on the waitlists are continually being monitored and reviewed by the team as needs change thus ensuring that urgent clinical cases are prioritised. The teams work closely with families to ensure that time sensitive and priority assessments are undertaken e.g. for children requiring specialist school placements, for young adults who are reaching 18 years and are leaving the children's services.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Your sincerely



Ms. Deborah Harrington,
General Manager for Disability Services, Cork North
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.