

August 6th 2019

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin.

PQ 34092/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Carrigaline primary care centre; if there are locums; and his plans to recruit further in this regard."

PQ 34099/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a psychologist at the Carrigaline primary care centre by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ 34106/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Blackrock primary care centre; if there are locums; and his plans to recruit further in this regard."

PQ 34113/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a psychologist at the Blackrock primary care centre by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ 34120/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Ballyphehane Togher area; if there are locums; and his plans to recruit further in this regard."

PQ 34127/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a psychologist in the Ballyphehane Togher area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ 34134/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Bishopstown Wilton area; if there are locums; and his plans to recruit further in this regard

PQ 34141/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a psychologist in the Bishopstown Wilton area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ 34148/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Douglas area; if there are locums; and his plans to recruit further in this regard."

PQ 34155/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a psychologist in the Douglas area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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

Primary Care – Staffing

Psychology staffing for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Child & Family Psychology service is not assigned to any particular sector within South Lee. This is due to the historic deficits and extensive waiting lists that developed across the catchment area. Psychology staff are currently based at St. Finbarr's Hospital with a limited Adult Primary Care Psychology service being provided from Kinsale Primary Care Centre. The allocated posts, outlined in the table below, include those at Senior Grade, Staff Grade and Assistant Psychologists. A Principal Psychologist manages staff covering South Lee and West Cork.

Location	No. of Psychologists designated in a full time capacity	If there are locums	Plans to recruit further
St. Finbarr's	8.9	No	Cork Kerry Community Healthcare intend to fill any vacancies that arise as a result of resignation or retirement.
Kinsale PCC	1	No	
Total	9.9		

Primary Care – Waiting Lists

The data is not collected in the way in which you have requested it. The table hereunder provides the available data as at the 30th June, 2019. . Data is collected for the combined service i.e. paediatric and adult, for the South Lee area y

A total of 398 people are awaiting service, 94% of which are in the 0 - 18 years age bracket. This is due to the historic deficits and extensive waiting lists that developed across the catchment area. Staff based at St. Finbarr's Hospital, are working to reduce the list of people waiting up to 2 years, while also prioritizing incoming referrals, managing caseloads and completing reports for assessment of need requests.

CKCH	Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology & Primary Care Adult Psychology Waiting List as at 30/06/2019				
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks
South Lee	65	46	42	50	195

Although significant investment was made in The Primary Care Psychology Service in 2018, the area has been challenged in permanently recruiting appropriately trained and experienced Psychologists to work in the CHO, due to the limited numbers of such staff available across the country. Without these staff in post the impact of the recently introduced grade of Assistant psychologists is limited. The CHO is currently working on trying to ensure that permanent Psychology posts are filled from those who have recently become eligible for recruitment into these posts.

Mental Health

Firstly, I wish to outline that wait list data is collected by sector based team. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of waiting times to see a psychologist by 3,6,9,12,18 and 24 months however I have provided you with the average waiting times for these sector based teams.

Mental Health Services in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare aim to promote and protect the mental health of the population and to provide effective services to those who need them. Our services have a strong focus on recovery and co-production and have consistently sought to develop and enhance community based services and reduce, where appropriate, those treated in more acute services.

Services for Adults are provided through General Adult Community Mental Health Teams. All teams are multi-disciplinary with Medical, Nursing, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, and Administration Staff. Teams are led by Consultants in Psychiatry and in 2017, Peer Support Workers were appointed to work with some of the teams.

For the purpose of your query, the South Lee Adult Mental Health Services comprise of the following sector based teams, Bandon / Kinsale, Ballincollig / Bishopstown, Douglas / Carrigaline, City South West – Togher, and City South East – Blackrock.

Sector Based Team	Designated wte Clinical Psychologists	Further Recruitment / Locums	Wait List
Ballyphehane / Togher	1wte in a full time capacity	There is not a requirement at present to recruit further.	Currently the average waiting time for a psychology appointment with this team is 9 months. There are currently 19 service users on the wait list for an appointment
Ballincollig / Bishopstown	2wte in a full time capacity	There is not a requirement at present to recruit further.	Currently the average waiting time for a psychology appointment with this team is 17 months. There are currently 47 service users on the wait list for an appointment.
Douglas / Carrigaline	1.5wte in place and 1wte vacant	The 1wte vacant post, due to a recent resignation, is being progressed for filling through the National Recruitment Service.	Currently the average waiting time for a psychology appointment with this team is 6 months. There are currently 29 service users on the wait list for an appointment.

As with all teams, service users may, on a case by case basis, be prioritised and seen earlier if recommended by the treating Consultants or another team member or if risk factors are identified.

CAMHS Sector Based	Designated	Further Recruitment /	Wait List
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Teams	wte Clinical Psychologists	Locums	
South Lee 1	1wte in place and 1wte vacant	The 1wte vacant post is being progressed for filling through the National Recruitment Service	Waiting list recorded by team. No internal psychology waiting list
South Lee 2	2wte	0	Waiting list recorded by team. No internal psychology waiting list
South Lee 3	1wte in place and 1wte vacant	The 1wte vacant post is being progressed for filling through the National Recruitment Service. 0.6wte is recruited to the ADHD waitlist project up to September 2019	Waiting list recorded by team. No internal psychology waiting list
South Lee / West Cork	1.8wte in place	0.6wte is recruited on a temporary appointment which we hope to fill long-term	Waiting list recorded by team. No internal psychology waiting list

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to take a proactive approach with a focus on reducing waiting times and identifying and establishing a plan to manage wait lists in each of our sector based teams and we are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that better access to a safe and effective service is delivered.

We trust this clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



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



Ms Sinéad Glennon
Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare