



Head of Social Care
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Model Business Park
Model Farm Road
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Oifig Cúraim Shóisialta
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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6th August 2019

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 34389/19:

“To ask the Minister for Health the waiting list for home help in south Lee, Cork”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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.

Our Health Care Support Assistants (previously known as Home Helps) are a very valued and important part of our service. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare welcomes the fact that a new nationally-agreed contract gives Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) the status and recognition they deserve, and also entitles HCSAs to be paid for travel time.

The new contract also recognises that the role of Home Help/HCSA has changed significantly over the years. Their role now is much more to do with people’s medical needs, it involves attending to people’s clinical needs. This is a big shift in what people might traditionally think of when they think of the home support service, and that’s one of the reasons for the change in title.

This means that there is an extra cost in providing the service and, while Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) has received additional funding for the new contract, unfortunately this will not meet all of the extra cost.

CKCH is required to deliver the service within the available budget, and this means that we will have to ensure the hours allocated to the service are affordable. CKCH will do everything it can to keep the impact of these measures to a minimum. In particular, CKCH wants to assure people currently receiving a service from a Cork Kerry Community Healthcare HCSA that there are no plans to impact on their service.

CKCH has had significant success in recent years in ensuring the budget available for home support in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare was used in a way that meant there have been little or no waiting lists for home support. However, as the budget given to us for 2019 does not allow CKCH to deliver the same number of hours as last year, there will unfortunately be some reduction in the number of hours provided in the coming months.



This will mean that for a period of months CKCH will be allocating less new service than previously.

South Lee Home Support Wait list as of June 2019:

No. of clients waiting on Home Support (New) Acute/Community		Total No. of clients waiting on Home Support (Increase) Acute/Community	
Total No. waiting on funding	40	Total No. waiting on funding	33
Total No. waiting on Care Staff (application approved but no staff available)	33	Total No. waiting on Care Staff (application approved but no staff available)	27
Total No. waiting on Equipment	0	Total No. waiting on Equipment	1
	<u>73</u>		<u>61</u>

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle O'Keeffe
Head of Social Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

