

8th July 2019

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26236/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for residential care for adults with an intellectual disability in County Cork in each of the years 2008 to 2018, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

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.

I refer to your request and wish to advise that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare does not hold a waiting list for residential care for adults with an Intellectual Disability in County Cork.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare delivers residential services through contractual arrangement with a number of service providers in the region.

To set the context in this area, it is important to note that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has not received development funding in recent years. In 2018 an allocation of €2.2m was received for the management of emergency cases in the region. This allocation was utilised to meet urgent crisis needs for residential care, for additional home supports as an alternative to residential care, or to provide additional supports where people in residential care have increased needs and cannot continue to be supported within that setting with the current level of supports. Unfortunately this level of funding did not enable service providers to meet all of the needs presenting in 2018. This deficit reflects the growing population of people with disabilities, longer life expectancy and more complex needs presenting, along with the lack of structured investment in residential and home supports over a number of years.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare receives a large volume of applications for funding of supports on an on-going basis. In 2017, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare established a Residential Services Placement Committee in line with national policy. This committee has representatives from both Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and the voluntary organisations. The purpose of the committee is to work in partnership to respond to the growing needs within the services for residential placements.

All requests for emergency funding are recorded and managed through a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The process that follows involves a prioritisation by of the applications for approval based on the funding available and the complexity of the cases presenting, within the resources available. In 2018, the voluntary providers began working with the HSE Disability Managers

to submit their priority cases to the DSMAT. At the end of 2018 there were 103 cases on system, the value of services required to support these cases was €10.5M. The organisations have continued this work into 2019 by submitting all other cases, currently there are in excess of 400 cases on the DSMAT.

It is estimated that there are 500 clients awaiting/requiring residential services in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.

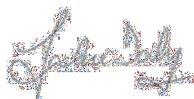
The Disability Support Application Management Tool was designed to deliver a listing process for each CHO area by presenting a profile of the individual who requires residential supports. This information on the DSMAT supports the decision making process. It is not a wait list for services. Currently, the funding available within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare only allows for the management of crisis cases.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is acutely aware of the need for residential, respite and home support places in Cork and Kerry for people with intellectual disabilities. We are in on-going communication with service providers and in some cases families and are conscious of the serious impact which the need for residential, respite and home support care has on families and indeed on service providers.

The final budget for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has identified that we will receive €1.67m for management of emergency residential cases in 2019, again we know this will not meet the known level of need.

A sub-group of the Residential Services Placement Management committee was established in 2018, with a primary focus on planning for the future in respect of both residential and respite services. This group will solely focus on reviewing existing services and the level of need in order to use this information to plan locally for the future. While funding is not available at this time to implement this plan, this work will ensure that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are prepared to respond to any additional funding that becomes available in 2019 and subsequent years.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms. Jackie Daly,
General Manager for Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.