



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin
Oifig an Cheantair
Bóthar an Ardáin
An Tulach Mhór
Co Uíbh Fhailí

Chief Officer CHO Area 8
HSE Area Office,
Arden Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly

PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION

t: 057 93 59787
f: 057 93 15855
e: CHO8@hse.ie

t: 057 93 59787
f: 057 93 15855
e: CHO8@hse.ie

29th May, 2019

Deputy Declan Breathnach
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ 20993/19: To ask the Minister for Health if he will make additional funding available to child mental health services in County Louth; if his attention has been drawn to the long waiting lists for child mental health services causing severe distress to families; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Breathnach,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question and Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Funding:

Louth Meath Mental Health Services provide a service to the combined population of Louth Meath. Some of our teams in Psychiatry of Later Life, Adult and CAMHS work across the Louth Meath border to provide a service to a combined Louth Meath population

Vision for Change indicates that for a population of three hundred thousand there should be six Consultant led multidisciplinary teams. (Louth Meath Population is 321,559 at last pop census).

Currently in the Louth Meath Mental Health Services we have six CAMHS teams:

- North Louth (will be based in Dundalk)
- South Louth (based in Child & Family Centre Drogheda)
- Louth/East Meath(based in Child & Family Centre Drogheda)
- South East Meath (Ashbourne)
- North Meath (Kennedy Road Navan)
- South Meath (Knightsbridge Trim)

CAMHS services in Louth Meath have increased their staffing base by over 30 new posts since 2013 due to the receipt of significant development funding. The increase in staffing levels since 2013 has supported the reconfiguration of the service from four teams in 2013 to six teams in 2019. The current staffing levels of the CAMHS teams in Louth Meath is 63/65% against Vision for Change. The national average is around 62% so we are slightly above that.

Another development in the service has been the funding of additional accommodation in both Drogheda and Dundalk to accommodate the expanding teams. In Q4 2019 the North Louth team currently located in Child & Family Centre in Drogheda, will relocate to new premises in Earl Street in Dundalk. The refurbishment/fit out of this premises is currently on-going and when completed will provide a modern appropriate central accessible location for delivery of CAMHS service to the families of North Louth.

2019 saw the addition of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) to the Louth Meath Service. ANPs can carry out initial assessments of children and thereby relieve the current waiting lists for access to CAMHS services which have built up throughout the country. The ANP has just commenced in Louth Meath CAMHS and is currently working to just one sector as she is still in training and building up her portfolio. When her training is completed in 2020 she will provide a Liaison Service in CAMHS across all six teams.

There still is the requirement for further investment in order for CAMHS services in Louth Meath to attain Vision for Change Standards and to that end the service continues to input into the annual estimates process to seek these funds.

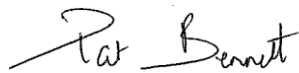
Waiting List:

The waiting list in CAMHS was a challenge last year. However, since the sixth team has started that issue was actively addressed and within nine months the waiting list has dropped from 57 patients to 7 patients.

I wish to assure you that the CAMHS Teams are working hard to ensure maximum impact on current waiting lists.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Bennett', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation