



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

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7th June, 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ 21084/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Louth waiting to access psychology services primary care, CAMHS and disability; and the number of these children that have been waiting 3 to 6, 6 to 12, 12 to 15 and more than 15 months respectively, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Adams,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Psychologists working in Primary Care in Louth offer a service to children 0 - 18 years. There is no service for adults. Children may be referred to the Primary Care psychology service alone or may also be referred to other Primary Care colleagues in conjunction with psychology. Each service holds its own wait list. The table below shows the information for the numbers of children awaiting an initial screening appointment with the psychology service. Following this appointment they will also have to wait for an intervention. The majority of these children are waiting in North Louth which has a long standing problem with under resourcing.

Waiting time (31 st May 2019)	Initial Screening
3 – 6 months	29
6 – 12 months	35
12 – 15 months	0
15 + months	0
Total	64

The psychologists in CAMHS work as part of multi-disciplinary, consultant led teams. Waiting lists are held by the CAMHS teams. Within these teams the psychologists take on the more complex cases that require longer term intervention.

The psychologists in Louth child disability services work as part of multi-disciplinary teams. Referrals come to the team and are managed by a team co-ordinator. Children who are referred may be scheduled for psychological assessment or intervention. Psychologists may also be consulted about other cases held by their colleagues. Below is the table showing the number of children currently waiting for an assessment/intervention by a psychologist and also those children who are awaiting an autism specific assessment. The ASD assessments are carried out by the psychologist with a colleague from another discipline in accordance with best practice guidelines.

Waiting time (31st May 2019)	Assessment/Intervention	ASD Assessment
0 – 3 months	14	24
3 – 6 months	16	23
6 – 12 months	1	53
12 – 15 months	0	29
15 + months	0	45
TOTAL	31	174

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,



Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation