



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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25th June, 2019

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

RE PQ 21085/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Louth, that have had an initial assessment and are waiting to access further 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 and also children waiting for further services i.e. therapy/intervention. Following the screening 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/under staffing. At present there is a vacant staff grade post and a vacant senior post (0.7 wte).

Waiting time (31 st May 2019)	Initial Screening	Further Services
3 – 6 months	29	59
6 – 12 months	35	38
12 – 15 months	0	*
15 + months	0	**74
Total	64	171

*The 15mths plus should capture this data. We do not collate for 12 to 15 months

**This figure is for 12months + as this is the way we format returns for the HSE KPIs

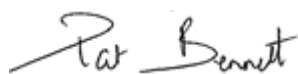
Louth CAMHS Psychologists operate assessment and intervention service only. They do not operate initial assessment without an immediate plan for intervention. Therefore there are no waiting lists for further Psychology Services.

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