



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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29th May, 2019

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

RE PQ 21087/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults in County Louth that have had an initial assessment and are waiting to access psychology services primary care, CAMHS and disability; and the number of these adults 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.

There is no adult Primary Care psychology service in Louth. Access to mental health services is via the Adult Mental Health service. The threshold for access to AMH is high which means that many people are unable to access services despite requiring psychological intervention.

There is no adult service provided by CAMHS.

There is no psychologist attached to the Adult Physical and Sensory Team in Louth which means that there is no psychological provision to these clients. There is 1 psychologist working 0.8 WTE with the Louth Learning Disability team which is a multi-disciplinary team. Because of the low psychology staffing levels the focus is on assessment with very little intervention work. The assessment work is aimed primarily at people leaving special schools/units. Currently there are 10 people waiting for assessment. People are usually seen within 3 months of referral. The service is coming under additional pressure due to the decongregation of the clients from St John of God's. The extension into the adult age bands of the Assessment of Need entitlement is also going to add to the pressure on services.

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