



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Social Care
South East Community Healthcare
c/o Community Care Headquarters
James' Green

Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600
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10th June 2019

Ms Mary Butler TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 22901/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of assessments of need carried out by the ASD team located in Waterford city and county in each of the years 2016 to 2018, by age groups of zero to six, seven to 12 and 13 to 18 years of age in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 22904

To ask the Minister for Health when and the way in which the 15 additional posts promised under the HSE's 2019 National Service Plan to improve access and assessments for children in County Waterford and the south-east will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 22902/19

To ask the Minister for Health the average length of time a child may be waiting for an assessment of need for an ASD diagnosis in Waterford city and county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Within the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) there are no specific autism teams and children with a diagnosis of ASD are managed through the disability services for both assessment and intervention. There were no ASD assessments carried out in Waterford between 2016-2018 specifically under the Assessment of Need of the Disability Act 2005. However I can confirm that there were 358 ASD assessments completed in Waterford from 2016-1st May 2019.

The 15 posts will initially be prioritised to support diagnostic assessments and we are currently working with heads of Disciplines across the South East Community (SECH) to agree a model of service delivery to maximise the throughput of children for diagnostic assessment. This consultation is being carried out in the context of reconfiguration of existing therapy resources to geographical base teams for children (0-18yrs). Therefore at this time it is not possible to give a timeframe for waiting list for ASD assessments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia McEvoy
General Manager, Disability Service- South East Community Healthcare