



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

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Mr Brendan Smith T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th October 2019

Re: PQ ref 41106/19 - DSREP19144(2) - Provision of additional resources to reduce delays in providing assessments and follow-up services for children in Counties Cavan & Monaghan - B Smith

Details

To ask the Minister for Health when additional resources will be provided to reduce delays in providing assessments and follow-up services for children in counties Cavan and Monaghan under the assessment of needs requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Brendan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the provision of additional resources to reduce delays in providing assessments and follow-up services for children in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

Child Development Team

The Manager of HSE Cavan Monaghan Child Development Team has advised that the Service was recently allocated two additional posts to specifically address current Assessment Of Need waiting lists for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Both therapists commenced employment on the 14th October 2019.

It is envisaged that Assessment Of Need assessments will commence at the start of November 2019 which will have a positive impact on service provision for assessment and not intervention.

Currently access for assessment and treatment within the Child Development Team from date of referral for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy is 4 years 6 months, Speech and Language Therapy is 10 months and Psychology are only

providing treatment to children/young people who are in Crisis due to increasing demands and complexity of current caseload.

As a service the Child Development Team are continuing to look at initiatives to manage current waiting lists within the limited resources available.

Enable Ireland Services

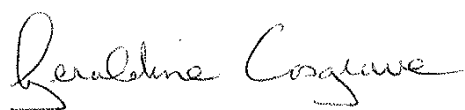
The Manager of Enable Ireland, which deals with children up to age 6years, has advised that they currently have 275 children accessing Enable Ireland services across Cavan Monaghan, and a further 162 children waiting to be assessed. The children presenting to the service are increasingly complex in their needs, and require significantly more input and support from the team in terms of assessment, diagnostics, behaviour management and ongoing therapeutic intervention. Families are also presenting with complex social circumstances and mental health difficulties which compound the issues the family as a whole are facing.

Enable Ireland were recently allocated two additional posts (for Occupational Therapy and Psychology), and these posts have been advertised, offered and accepted by the successful candidates. Staff will be in these posts by year end at the latest, which should have some impact on service provision. However, these posts are at a staff grade level which limits the ability of these health professionals to deal with the complexity of a large portion of the caseload.

Enable Ireland are continuing to look at initiatives to manage the waitlist and support parents while their child is waiting to be assessed, by providing parent training opportunities as well as directing them towards other local community supports that may be of benefit.

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

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Cosgrove
General Manager, Disability Services CHO 1
Bainisteoir Ginearálta, Seirbhísi Michumais ESP 1