



Oifig Cheannasaí Meabhairshláinte, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin, Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara. Éirchód W91KDC2

Office of Head of Mental Health, Health Service Executive, Community Healthcare - Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91KDC2. ☎: 045 880 416

Catherine Martin TD,
Leinster House,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.

31st October 2019.

RE PQ41448/19 - "To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the extreme difficulties persons are experiencing accessing urgent mental healthcare services in the Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 area in particular psychotherapy; and if he will make a statement on the matter". Catherine Martin TD

Dear Deputy Martin,

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 the following outlines the position.

HSE Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare includes the former Dublin West/South West Mental Health Service (Loman's / Tallaght), the Dublin South City Mental Health Service (St James's) and Kildare West Wicklow. While serving a total population of 697,644 the service also includes Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. In addition, services for people with intellectual disabilities who have mental health needs are delivered by a number of providers including Stewarts Hospital Palmerstown, Cheeverstown House Services, Dublin South City Intellectual Disability Service, St John of Gods and Peamount Hospital.

The Ballyfermot Mental Health Team provides specialist mental health services to people living in the Ballyfermot area the service provides for people with significant mental illness. It is a secondary care service, meaning patients are referred for specialist assessment by another doctor, often their General Practitioner. They work in partnership with local GPs, Tallaght University Hospital and other local health care, social and rehabilitations services.

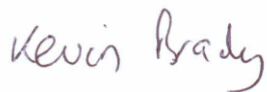
The model of care is community based, with a team that aligns closely with the model described in Vision for Change. The waiting list for routine new patient appointments is well within national guidelines. The service responds promptly to referrals that are triaged as urgent. These patients are often seen within a week and in many cases within 24 hours. There are a variety of therapeutic interventions available.

The current waiting time for psychology assessment is 3 months. Following assessment, the waiting time for therapy is three and a half months.

Currently the team consists of 28 WTE (whole time equivalent staff), serving a population of 85,095. In 2018 the team received 589 referrals of which 565 were accepted. On average over 90% of referral are seen within 3 months. This includes urgent referrals which are prioritised by the Multi- Disciplinary Team.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, should you require further details please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Brady
Head of Mental Health