



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95NV08

Telephone 353 56 7784319

28th July 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 19426

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in County Wexford waiting for an appointment for early intervention by therapy; the number that are waiting less than 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen

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

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

The disability services in the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) area provide a range of multidisciplinary supports and services for children with disability including Early Intervention (0-6 years) and School Age Services (6-18 years).

There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessment including Autism Disorder Spectrum and all disability services which has led to delays in timeframes. It is acknowledged that given increased referral rates and demands for assessments and interventions by the Disability Services, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current need.

The operational structures of Early Intervention (EI) services vary throughout the region and waiting lists are not specific to disability services but service users are on a paediatric waiting list. In Wexford all EI referrals are reviewed by the EI team. Each child is discussed and where appropriate the child is then referred onward to the relevant discipline for assessment and treatment as appropriate to meet the child's needs. Based on the data that is routinely collated, I can advise that in 2019 there were 117 referrals reviewed under this process by the EI team in Wexford.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Ennis".

Ms. Anne Ennis
Acting Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare