

30th July 2020

Deputy Thomas Gould,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

PQ Number: 19467 / 20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting on the CAMHS waiting list in Cork city; the average waiting time; the number waiting more than six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork, supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit. All referrals received to CAMHS services are triaged in a timely manner and the referral is either accepted or rejected at that point. Referrals accepted are wait listed in order of clinical priority and wait lists vary across each sector based community team. Routine referrals are waitlisted as is the standard procedure and urgent referrals are responded to within 7 days in line with national Key Performance Indicators.

There has been a 40% reduction in the total waitlist from 508 in January 2020 to 305 in June 2020. The below table shows the total number on the waiting list across Cork as at 30th June 2020 and the waiting times in 3 month blocks:

Cork CAMHS Waitlist as at 30.06.2020							
	Total	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	> 12 months	
North Cork	98	21	38	25	10	4	
North Lee East	4	4	0	0	0	0	
North Lee West	13	6	6	1	0	0	
South Lee 1	31	16	12	1	1	1	
South Lee 2	13	13	0	0	0	0	
South Lee / West Cork	10	9	1	0	0	0	
South Lee 3	71	11	13	22	19	6	
Cork North Central	65	7	8	14	7	29	
Total waitlist for Cork CAMHS	305	87	78	63	37	40	

Of the total young people waiting to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Cork, 165 (54%) of these were waiting < 6 months, 100 (33%) were waiting 6-12 months and the remaining 40 (13%) were waiting > 1 year to access these services.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to take a proactive approach with a focus on reducing CAMHS waiting times and identifying and establishing a plan to manage wait lists in each of our sector based CAMHS teams. We are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that better access to a safe and effective service is delivered

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
Acting Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare