



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Baile Átha Cliath Theas,
Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara

Head of Service, Primary Care
Community Healthcare Dublin South,
Kildare & West Wicklow (CHO7)
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
Tel: 045 882 527

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Seán Crowe
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 3770/20

To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe for a child seeking supports in the CHO7 catchment area; the key staff posts or personnel required to fill vacant positions; and the new measures being applied to deal with lengthening waiting times in view of the growing waiting list for children with profound speech and language difficulties in the CHO 7 area - Seán Crowe.

- Deputy Seán Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The waiting times for Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) for children aged 0-18 within Primary Care Services in CHO7 are as follows:

Waiting Times	Primary Care
0-4mths	872
4-8mths	477
8-12mths	163
12-18mths	73
18-24mths	11
24mths+	1
Total Initial Assessment	1597
0-4mths	385
4-8mths	294
8-12mths	163
12-18mths	51
18-24mths	4
24mths+	1
Total Initial Therapy	898
0-4mths	624

4-8mths	512
8-12mths	339
12-18mths	137
18-24mths	13
24mths+	1
Total further therapy	1626
Total Waiting Lists	4121


The vast majority of the children who are waiting over two years are within Social Care Services. These children require a multi-disciplinary approach to assessment/intervention. Speech and Language Therapy for these children is typically offered in the context of a multidisciplinary team.

Speech and Language Therapy Services within Primary Care in CHO7 endeavour to manage waiting times in the following ways:

- Education and screening of referral sources to ensure appropriate referrals.
- Prior to offering an assessment waiting lists are validated to ensure that patients still require an appointment.
- Following assessment, patients are placed on an appropriate evidence based clinical care therapy pathway.
- Operation of provision of an opt in system for families to contact us to arrange appointments at a day/time convenient to them.
- Text messaging reminder systems, as an assurance to remind patients of their appointments.
- Drop in Advice Clinics, families may access while awaiting services and while awaiting further intervention.
- Targeting longest patients waiting to try and reduce lengthy waiting times.
- Therapy is offered in groups, where appropriate, to maximise efficiency while maintaining quality of service.
- Workshops for parents.
- Every effort is made to replace staff, to reduce the impact on service continuity.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service
Primary Care