

28th September 2020

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23693/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the action being taken to reduce CAMHS waiting lists in the Cork north Lee area; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan

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. All referrals received by CAMHS services are triaged in a timely manner and the referral is either accepted or rejected at that point. Referrals accepted are waitlisted in order of clinical priority and waitlists vary across each sector based community team. Routine referrals are waitlisted as is the standard procedure and urgent referrals are responded to within seven days in line with national Key Performance Indicator's (KPIs).

There are a total of eight sector based community mental health teams in Cork. These are supported by Eist Linn, the Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit. For the purpose of your query, the North Lee Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services comprise of the following sector based teams: North Lee North, North Lee East and North Lee West.

The below table shows the total number on the waiting list across these teams in August 2020 as compared to January 2020. As can be seen from the table below, there has been a 68% reduction in the total waiting list for these teams from January 2020 (201) to August 2020 (65).

	January 2020	August 2020
North Lee East	31	2
North Lee West	15	15
North Lee North	155	48
Total for Cork North Lee	201	65

Of the total young people waiting to access CAMHS services with these teams, 21 (32%) of these are waiting <6 months, 25 (38%) are waiting 6-12 months and the remaining 19 (29%) are waiting >1 year. The total number of young people waiting >12months is associated with the CAMHS North Lee North team. However, it is important to note that this team, due to the appointment of a regular Consultant to the team in late 2019 and the ongoing efforts of the team with regards to waitlist initiatives, has seen a 73% reduction in the total number waiting >12 months from 73 in January 2020 to 19 in August 2020.

Cork 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