



12th May 2021

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
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Dublin

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Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

PQ Ref: 20515/21 –To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to improve waiting times for psychological treatment and support in North Dublin CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy Ó'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The extenuating challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented levels of demand on all Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Community Services and the teams are currently making all efforts to progress through their waiting lists in as timely a fashion as possible.

The current waiting list for psychological treatment at CAMHS Dublin North City and County (DNCC) is as follows:

Team	Number of People on Psychology Waiting List
Ballymun	4
Blanchardstown	18
Castleknock	6
North East City	5
Darndale	25
Swords	1
North Inner City	0
Balbriggan	0
Total	59

The CAMHS Service have approval for a waiting list initiative which sets out a defined and systematic reduction of waiting times for service users on the waiting list.

The CAMHS DNCC service has seen a notable level of turnover in psychology staff through maternity leaves and resignations in more recent times.

The CAMHS DNCC service has successfully recruited six psychology replacement posts across the service in 2021, this will greatly assist CAMHS DNCC teams in working through their psychology waiting times.

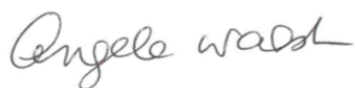
The CAMHS DNCC service has been designated as essential service throughout the pandemic. The service remained “open for business” and prioritised its service delivery model with as much priority focus on Face to Face appointments as possible.

The service has balanced a strong ethos of facilitating as many attended appointments as possible while ensuring the safety of staff and the public.

The service has been adaptable in utilising a blend of digitally assisted and phone appointments to assist continuity of service delivery where appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Angela Walsh
Head of Service Mental Health
CHO Dublin North City & County