



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

Telephone 353 56 7734804

8th March 2021

Mr. Peadar Tóibín TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10620/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with a disability in County Wexford awaiting a HSE funded residential placement; and the waiting times for same.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

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.

South East Community Healthcare is acutely aware of the need for residential, respite and home support places in Wexford and across the South East for people with intellectual disabilities. The provision of residential services has come under further pressure in recent years. There is an increase in the number of persons (children and adults) that are seeking access to these services. In addition there are increasing levels of “changing needs” among existing residential service users who require increased supports. The need for increased residential facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various options to respond to this need in line with resources available.

In respect of all requests for new or additional supports, similar to a request for a residential placement, there is a nationally agreed process in place whereby each CHO has established a residential services executive management committee comprising of representatives from the HSE and all voluntary service providers in the CHO who are responsible for considering all cases identified and prioritising and approving the cases submitted with a view to ensuring a standardised and equitable approach across the CHO region.

In line with present procedures all residential care requests (South East) and associated information is included on the South East Disability Supports Application Management Tool (DSAMT). If additional funding required a business case is submitted to the HSE for consideration. As you are aware we must provide effective and safe services within available resources.

However the HSE is aware that Section 39 agencies maintain their own waiting list with regard to the HSE, I can advise that we currently have 53 people who had requested to be placed on residential waiting list since 2006. Some families may request placement on the waiting list in anticipation of a future need. At this time it is not possible to estimate how long a client may wait due to the changing needs of clients and availability of appropriate service placements. In addition there are also emergency residential placement requests arising (e.g. carer critical illness) which must take priority.

Residential placements are provided on the basis of need and within available resources. The HSE continues to engage with families to ensure those with greatest need are prioritised. In 2020, I can advise that, two children and two adults commenced residential placements.

Those people who are on the waiting lists are considered as suitable places become available and have their care needs reviewed regularly to ensure that services being provided remain appropriate.

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 "Janette Dwyer".

Ms. Janette Dwyer
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare