

7th April 2021

Mr. Pdraig O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14132/21

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details on lasting service improvements particularly with regard to recruitment, retention and waiting lists resulting from the CAMHS enhancement project across teams served and each discipline in CHO4 since it commenced in 2018; 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 which provide specialist mental health treatment and care to young people up to 18 years of age through a multidisciplinary team. There are a total of 10 sector based teams across Cork and Kerry Community Healthcare supported by Eist Linn, Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit which services the catchment areas of Cork, Kerry, Waterford, South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

By way of background, the CAMHS enhancement project commenced at the end of September 2017. Under this initiative, funding was secured at a national level for an additional 7.5wte clinical posts. These posts were allocated to teams with low staffing levels and the longest waiting lists and clear action plans were put in place for each team where waiting lists exceeded 12 months.

For the purpose of your query, please see below table, of note 1 full time person (ie 1wte) reflects a 37 or 39 hour week depending on the discipline. The staffing levels provided in the table below does not account for staff assigned to teams but who are availing of leave such as parental leave, maternity leave, sick leave.

Year	Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)	Total Waiting List
2018	78.66wte	747
2019	83wte	780
2020	93.67wte	637
2021	117.80wte	443

As can be seen from the above table significant investment in staffing resources has been made to CAMHS services over recent years. This investment in additional resources in addition to a number

of other local initiatives by the service, has resulted in a reduction of 41% to the overall waiting lists across all 10 teams from 747 in January 2018 to 443 in January 2021 and a reduction of 73% to the >12 month waiting lists from 230 in January 2018 to 63 in January 2021

Please do not hesitate to contact should you have any queries.

Kind regards,



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