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30th November 2021

**Deputy Martin Kenny
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

RE: PQ 55646/21 “The number of children that are currently awaiting services through CAMHS in counties Sligo and Leitrim; the length of time they have been on the waiting list”

Dear Deputy Kenny

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Question, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of the HSE.

We have now had the opportunity to discuss this query with Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Service [SLMHS] Child Adolescents Mental Health Services [CAMHS] which is team that provide the core services to the population under 18 years old with difficulties with Mental Ill Health in Counties Sligo and Leitrim.

The number of children waiting for services from CAMHS as of 25th November 2021 are:

Total on waiting list: 102 service users on CAMHS waiting list.

Urgent waiting list: 24 out of the 102 are on the urgent waiting list.
5 had appointments in November 2021.
The longest wait time on SLMHS CAMHS urgent waiting list is currently one month.

Routine waiting list: 78 out the 102 are on the routine waiting list.
8 had appointments in November 2021.

The SLMHS CAMHS are very focused on the current waiting list and have undertaken considerable work this year to reduce waiting times. Earlier this year a Working Group was established to put in place adequate processes to address the waiting lists for CAMHS. Table 1 demonstrates the impact the actions from this Working Group had on the Waiting Lists for CAMHS SLMHS

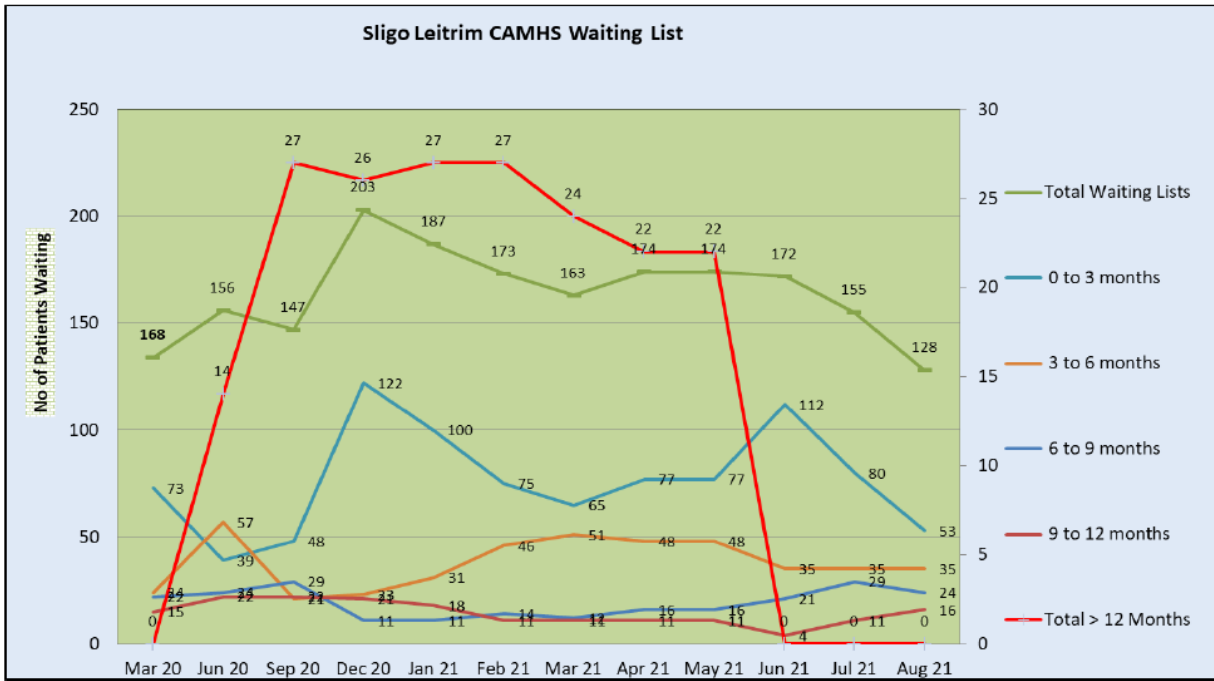


Table 1 – Progression of Waiting lists in SLMHS CAMHS

The overall waiting list (green line – primary axis) in Sligo Leitrim CAMHS had been steadily increasing throughout the Covid 19 pandemic very high levels of referrals in Qtr 4 2020 resulting in 203 service users waiting for an initial assessment in Dec '20, 26 of whom were waiting in excess of 12 months.

The actions put in place in Qtr 2 2021 has had a positive on the overall waiting list with a reduction of 18% when compared to June '20.

The over 12 month waiting list (red line – secondary axis) has been cleared reducing from 27 waiting in June '20 to 0 waiting from June 2021. This will require targeted on-going attention as the numbers on the 6-9 month and 9-12 month categories are increasing.

Although SLMHS CAMHS has reduced the waiting lists and waiting times, this work is not finished and CAMHS SLMHS will maintain this matter as a priority for 2022.

If you have any further queries on this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely


Teresa Dykes
General Manager
Mental Health Services, CHO1.