

26th October 2021

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 48387/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons employed in July 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021 in community psychiatry, community psychology and community CAMHS areas in County Cork by area; and the positions recruited since January 2021 in County Cork in these sectors.”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

By way of background, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services are provided by 8 multi-disciplinary community sector based teams across Cork. With regards to composition of staffing, A Vision for Change recommends that each individual CAMHS team should comprise the following:

- one consultant psychiatrist
- one doctor in training
- two psychiatric nurses
- two clinical psychologists
- two social workers
- one occupational therapist
- one speech and language therapist
- one child care worker
- two administrative staff

With regards to your query, please see below tables which outlines the actual whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing working with each of these 8 sector based teams in July 2019, July 2020 and July 2021. Of note, the data captured reflects the actual staffing working with each of these teams and therefore does not include staff WTE that were on maternity leave at the time.

July 2019

Service Providers	Administrative Support Staff	Child/Social Care Worker	Clinical Psychologist	Consultant Psychiatrist	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Other Staff	Other Therapist	Registrar/SHO	Senior Registrar	Social Worker	Speech & Language Therapist
Cork North Central	1.3	0	1.2	0	1	0.7	0	0	0	0.2	1	0.2
North Cork	2	1	1.8	1	1	1.1	0	0.4	1	1	1.8	2
North Lee East	2	0	1.2	1	1	1.5	0.25	0.5	1	1	1.8	0.6
North Lee West	2	0	1.3	1	1	0.8	0	0	2	0	1.8	1
South Lee / West Cork	0.89	0	2.2	1	1	0.5	0	0	1	0	2	1.6
South Lee 1	1	0	1	1	1.77	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
South Lee 2	0.8	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0.8	0	3.6	1
South Lee 3	1.6	1	2.4	1	1	2	0	0.2	1	0	0	2.8

JULY 2020

Service Providers	Administrative Support Staff	Child/Social Care Worker	Clinical Psychologist	Consultant Psychiatrist	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Other Staff	Other Therapist	Registrar/SHO	Senior Registrar	Social Worker	Speech & Language Therapist
Cork North Central	1.8	0.6	1.6	1	1	0.6	0	0	1	0	1.8	0.45
North Cork	2	1	3	1	1	1.6	0	0.5	1	1	2	2
North Lee East	2	1	2	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	2.2	0.6
North Lee West	2	0.6	1.8	1	1	1.5	0	0	2	0	1.7	1
South Lee / West Cork	1	0	2.4	1	2	0.5	0	0	1	0	2	1.4
South Lee 1	0.8	0	1.6	1	0.9	1	0	0	1	1	0	0.8
South Lee 2	1.3	0.8	1.8	1	1	0.4	0	0	0.8	0	2.8	1.8
South Lee 3	1.8	1	1.6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1.2

July 20218 (please note that KPI data is not provided for the CAMHS North Lee East team as the data is not yet available as a direct result of the HSE cyber attack

Service Providers	Administrative Support Staff	Child/Social Care Worker	Clinical Psychologist	Consultant Psychiatrist	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Other Staff	Other Therapist	Registrar /SHO	Senior Registrar	Social Worker	Speech & Language Therapist
Cork North Central	1.8	0.6	1.8	1	1	0.6	0	0	1	0	1.6	0
North Cork	2	1	2.8	1	1	1.6	0	0.5	1	1	2	1
North Lee West	1	0.6	2	0.8	1	0.8	0	0.4	2	0	1.6	0.8
South Lee / West Cork	1	0	2.4	1	2	0.5	0	0	1	0	2	1.4
South Lee 1	1	0	1.6	1	1.9	1	0	0	1	1	2	0.8
South Lee 2	1.3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.8	0	1.6	2
South Lee 3	2.8	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

The service adheres to all HR processes ie the Public Services Management (recruitment & Appointments) Act 2004. At all times Mental Health Services strives to ensure that the staff profile and skill mix appropriately meets the needs of all service users and to optimise and maximise the number of staff available to meet critical clinical need.

With regards to positions recruited since January 2021, I can confirm that all existing funded replacement posts (such as resignations, retirements or promotions) are approved by the Head of Service and Chief Officer in the CHO. Once approved, the posts are progressed through the HR function to be filled either through the national appointment system or via local competition if a panel is not available to recruit into post. In addition to the recruitment of replacement posts, there has also been approval to cover reduction of hours (eg parental leave) which has resulted in capacity to create temporary posts which in turn maximises service provision.

The approval of posts and clinical necessity does not necessarily mean that we can successfully fill all of the posts available.

In addition to the existing funded posts there have been a number of additional development posts assigned to CAMHS Cork for which funding was secured through the Programme for Government, the majority of the posts listed have been successfully recruited with any remaining unfilled posts being progressed for recruitment. Development posts funded under the Programme for Government for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services include;

- an additional 7.5 wte posts approved in 2017 for CAMHS Teams in the Cork and Kerry region
- An additional 12.3wte funded posts to establish the Child and Adolescent Regional Eating Disorder Service (CAREDS) located in Cork and which became operational in May 2019. CAREDS is part of the HSE National Clinical programme for Eating Disorders (NCPED) and CAMHS in Cork and Kerry. People from Kerry can attend in person, via teleconsultation and/or most commonly through a shared care arrangement with Kerry CAMHS. Funding secured in 2018 allowed for the recruitment of a dedicated multidisciplinary team comprising of 11.8wte in the areas of Child Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work, Psychiatric Nursing, Dietitian, Family Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Administration. There is also a sessional input from a Paediatrician. Furthermore, additional funding released in 2021



allows for the recruitment of a 0.5wte Speech and Language Therapist to the team for which recruitment is currently underway.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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