



Bainisteoir Ginearálta, Seirbhís Meabhairshláinte
 Teach Ben View, Bóthar an Chláir, Ballytivnan, Sligeach, F91 F6E4
 T 071 914 0396 R: Teresa.dykes@hse.ie,
 General Manager, Mental Health Service
 Ben View House, Clarion Road, Ballytivnan, Sligo, F91 F6E4
 Tel: 071 914 0396 Email: Teresa.dykes@hse.ie

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

1st November 2021

Re: PQ 46178/21 –

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently on the waiting list for mental health services in County Donegal by the stage of assessment and or treatment; the corresponding length of time that they have been waiting for assessment and or treatment in three month intervals, that is, zero to three, three to six months and so on in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

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, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

We have now had the opportunity to discuss this query with the Adult Mental Health Service [AMHS], Child Adolescents Mental Health Services [CAMHS] and Mental Health Intellectual Disability Services [MHID]. These are the teams that provide the core services to the population in Donegal. .

Please see below the waiting list details retrieved from the KPI data as of **30/09/2021** reflecting the overall waiters.

Table 1: Overall waiting times for Donegal MHS.

Donegal Mental Health Waiting Lists	CAMHS	Adult Mental Health	Older Persons	MHID	Total
Total Waiting	86	160	46	1	293
0-3 months	69	130	38	1	238
3-6 months	17	21	7	0	45
6-9 months	0	6	0	0	6
9-12 months	0	2	1	0	3
>12 months	0	1	0	0	1

AMHS

The overall generic adult services are delivered through a community team model and all referrals are assessed at the weekly team meetings and assigned a Key Worker, which is dependent on geographical area and or speciality specific needs. Outpatient appointments are then issued and the majority of appointments are within 0-6 months. The relevant Consultant will determine the timeline and priority based upon the assessed needs. Exceptions are made when a person requires an immediate appointment. This is facilitated through the local teams accordingly.

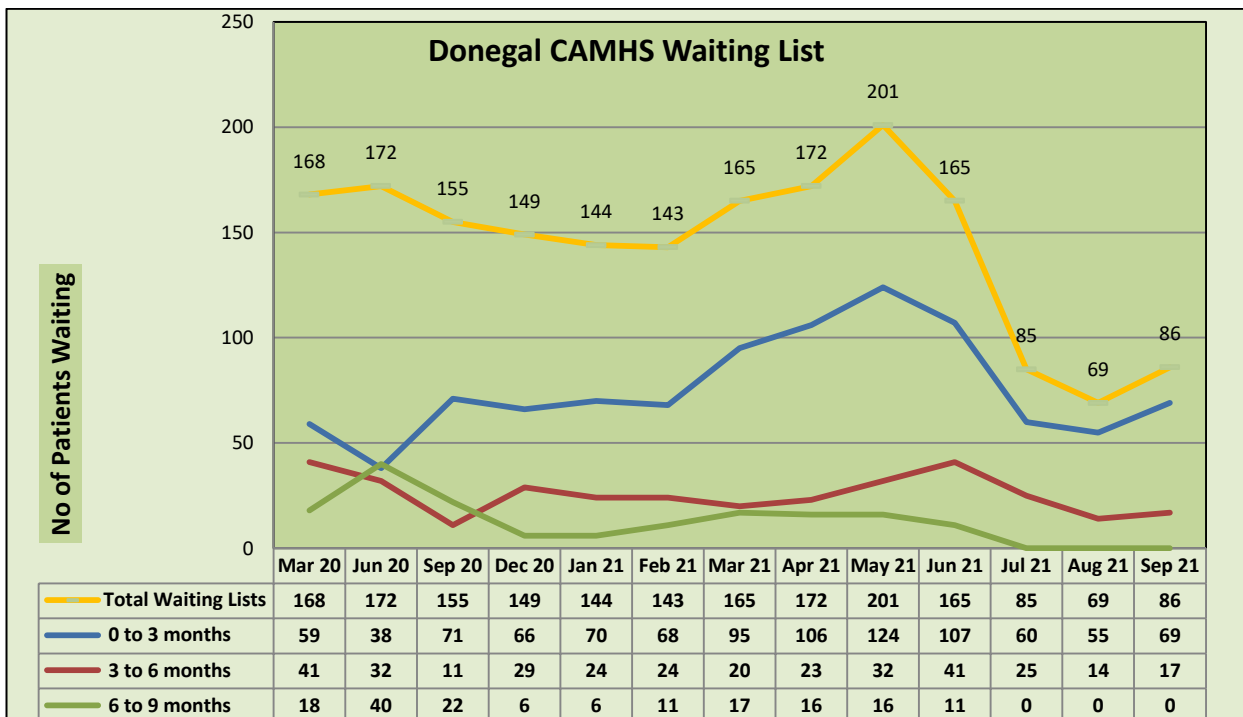
CAMHS:

An analysis of September 2021 was completed [see Table 2] which demonstrates a significant improvement in the overall time period for young people accessing this service since 2020. This service improvement was driven by the Donegal Area Management Team by building the capacity within the teams and in that regard DMHS CAMHS successfully recruited a third Consultant and now have three [3] teams who operate across the county. Further a 4th Consultant Psychiatrist [CAMHS] was recruited for a specific period in the summer months [June to August 2021] who was asked to focus on addressing the ADHD waiting list.

When compared to December 2020, the overall waiting list has decreased by 42% (63 service users). In June 2020 there were 49 service users waiting in excess of 12 months for an appointment. The over 12 month waiting list was eradicated in Jun 2021 and remains at zero. Currently there are no service users waiting in excess of 6 months for an appointment in CAMHS.

Separately a total of 78 ADHD service users were assessed during the summer with 42 discharged with no further follow up from CAMHS required. The remaining 36 have been reabsorbed into the CAMHS teams for onward treatment.

Table 2: Donegal MHS CAMHS



The DAMHMT continue to monitor the improvements in CAMHS and are committed to developing this service capacity in 2022 with a number of community based initiatives to enable and support young people and their families to live well at home.

Also DMHS have recruited a Senior Dietician to strengthen the Eating Disorder programme across the service including specific input to CAMHS & AMHS when required. The roll out of the Talking Therapies programme will further enhance the model of care promoted in the DMHS in reaching out to people who need it most. This programme will be led by psychology and the core objective for this new development in Donegal is to improve access to psychological therapies for service users of the South Donegal and North West Donegal CMHTs. The service will be easily accessible, in terms of routes of referral, physical set-up & location and models of service delivery (in person and digital options available). The service will also develop and enhance pathways to other services within the geographic area.

The resources secured to develop this community service are

- Senior Psychologist 1 wte;
- Senior OT 1 wte;
- Senior Social Worker 1 wte;
- Admin support 0.5 wte

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

Yours sincerely



Teresa Dykes
General Manager
Mental Health Services, CHO1.