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Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

15TH February 2022

RE; PQ ref 6060/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time child Psychologists for CAMHS in County Leitrim in each of the past three years in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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 Parliamentary Question, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of the HSE.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service [CAMHS] service is based in the Nazareth House in Sligo town and serves Children from the Sligo, Leitrim and west Cavan areas. The table below lists the number of Psychologists in place during the times indicated –past three years.

Year	2019	2020	2021
Number of Psychologists	Jan - June: 2 Psychologists June- July: 1 Psychologist July – Dec: 0 Psychologists	Jan- Dec: 0 Psychologists	Jan- May: 0 Psychologists May- Dec: 2 Psychologists

There are two Senior Grade Psychologists working within the CAMHS team with one working full time and the other working 4 days per week. Children’s Psychology Services are also provided via Primary Care Services for children and adolescents with mild to moderate psychological needs, not requiring specialist CAMHS interventions.

Sligo Leitrim CAMHS are members of the CHO1 CAMHS Service Improvement Programme and have also established their own local CAMHS Service Improvement Group. Significant service improvements have been achieved throughout 2021 with the overall waiting list for

children and adolescents waiting for an initial assessment reducing from 187 in January 2021 down to 121 in December 2021. There are currently no service users waiting in excess of twelve months for an initial assessment (Dec'21 data), compared to 27 on the over twelve month waiting list in January 2021. Work is on-going in sustaining and improving service delivery and a CHO1 submission has been made to the national CAMHS wait list initiative fund, to support the further reduction in waiting list numbers. We await the outcome of this decision.

Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Services are in the process of establishing an Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service. This will provide bespoke services tailored to meet the emerging psychological and Mental Health needs of young people in the area. The team consists of a Senior Psychologist, a Clinical Nurse Specialist and a Youth Worker, with dedicated admin support. The Senior Psychologist position has been successfully filled and is due to commence in post at the end of February.

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

Yours sincerely

Siobhan McEniff
General Manager
Mental Health Services, CHO1.