Head of Service
Disability Services

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12th July 2022

Mr. Johnny Mythen T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 35815/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Wexford who are awaiting primary care services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessments including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other disability services, which has led to regretable delays. Additionally in line with public health guidance at the outset of the pandemic, these services like many others, were significantly reduced or curtailed to limit exposure to COVID-19 which has impacted greatly on waiting lists. There are currently 578 children awaiting an ASD Assessment in County Wexford.

It is acknowledged that given increased referral rates and demand for assessments, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current demand.

South East Community Healthcare (SECH) Disability Services has received an additional funding allocation of €500k to reduce the ASD Assessment waiting list backlog. At the moment a procurement process is being finalised to commence this process in SECH. While ASD Assessments continue to be undertaken by the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across SECH it is hoped that this additional external service will reduce waiting list further.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Mr. Oliver Reilly
A/Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare