



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
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16^h March 2022

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 12968/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychology posts or whole-time equivalent posts that are allocated in County Wexford; the number of these posts that are vacant; the length of time that they have been vacant; 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 outlines the current position.

Primary Care

No. of Psychology posts in Co. Wexford	No. of vacant Psychology posts in Co. Wexford	Length of time Psychology post has been vacant	No. of Assistant Psychology posts in Co. Wexford	No. of vacant Assistant Psychology posts in Co. Wexford	Length of time Assistant Psychology post has been vacant
7 WTEs	1 WTE	48 months	4 WTEs	1 WTE	18 months

Psychology Waiting List Initiative

- Primary Care SECH has been advised that additional funding will be forthcoming in 2022 building on the Psychology Waiting List Initiative in 2021.
- This initiative has targeted those waiting over 52 weeks (longest waiting) and this has seen a reduction of the waiting list (2021 target of 180 this has been achieved).
- In 2021, 110 children and their parents were offered various levels of Psychology intervention based on the stepped model of care resulting in a decrease in the number of those waiting the longest for child and adolescent Psychology. The initiative will continue throughout 2022 with an aim to target children waiting over 52 weeks.

Disability Services

No. of Psychology posts in Co. Wexford allocated to Children's Disability Network Teams	No. of Psychology posts currently employed in Co. Wexford	No. of Psychology posts vacant
6 WTEs	2 WTE	*4 WTE

***Disability Vacancies:**

Two posts have been vacant since August and September 2021 respectively. Both of these posts have been offered to the recruitment panel twice and unfortunately were not filled. There is a further vacant post currently on maternity leave - this post has also been offered out on the national recruitment panel but not filled to date. With regard the new Senior Psychologist post allocated from Phase 2 development monies in August 2021, I am pleased to advise that a person has been appointed and is due to commence in Wexford in early June 2022.

Mental Health Services

Psychology Posts WTE	Vacancies	Length of vacancies
7.1	*1	6 months

*This post has been expressed out for filling. However, currently no candidates have accepted this post.

It is currently extremely challenging to recruit to psychology posts in all services due to a high demand for psychologists nationally. Nonetheless CHO SECH continues to progress recruitment to vacant psychology posts across all services with posts submitted to the National Recruitment Service to be filled. Where national panel exists, posts will be offered to all eligible candidates.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality psychology services to all eligible service users and regrets the delay in accessing services. Please be assured that the SECH/Wexford Psychology Service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare