



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais  
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20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Deputy Brian Stanley  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ 43063/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in CHO8 who are currently awaiting access to occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and psychology services; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Brian Stanley**

Dear Deputy Stanley

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

### Primary Care

Service	Louth	Meath	L/O	L/W
Physiotherapy	325	512	379	134
Occupational Therapy	836	225	283	343
Speech & Language Therapy	237	858	70	724
Psychology	296	347	183	131

### Disability Services

Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People is being rolled out across the CHO and this will mean a change in how services are being provided to children with disability.

Waiting lists are not kept for individual disciplines as this does not reflect the nature of the support provided for children with complex needs. There will be one multi-disciplinary team which will provide a more integrated model of service delivery.

The CDNTs are currently reviewing all children within the service and in the process of planning and delivering on Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for children within the service. An IFSP is an Individual Family Support Plan and is developed by the family, child and the members of the CDNT. It guides how the team supports the child. This is a process which requires getting to know the child and their needs (if not already known), preparing the family to create the IFSP and the development of the document



along with the development of the supports to address the identified goals which include universal, targeted, and individual supports. Each IFSP is estimated to take up to 12 clinical hours across 2-3 staff to develop over a period of 6 weeks. This does not include the supports delivered after the IFSP to meet the goals and priorities identified. The information provided below is based on September 2022 caseload analysis.

### **Louth – Network 1 & 3**

In Louth there are two (2) Children's Disability Network Teams, namely Network 1 (covering Castlebellingham, Dundalk and Carlingford areas) and Network 3 (covering Drogheda, Dunleer, Clogherhead and Bettystown areas).

Network 1 there are currently approximately 756 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 723 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 3 there are currently approximately 856 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 522 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

### **Meath – Network 2,4,5,6 (Networks 4&5 Enable Ireland lead agency)**

In Meath there are four (4) Children's Disability Network Teams, namely Network 2 (covering Kells, Oldcastle, North Meath), Network 4 (covering Ashbourne, Duleek, Dunshaughlin, Laytown, Bettystown, Ratoath), Network 5 (covering Navan & Slane) and Network 6 (covering Athboy, Dunboyne, Enfield, Summerfield, Trim)

Network 2 there are currently approximately 595 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 246 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 4 there are currently approximately 1109 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 857 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 5 there are currently approximately 781 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 525 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 6 there are currently approximately 810 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 500 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

### **Longford/Westmeath – Networks 7,8,& 9**

In Longford/Westmeath there are three (3) Children's Disability Network Teams, namely Network 7 (covering Delvin, Kilgeegan, Kinnegad, Mullingar & North



Westmeath), Network 8 (covering Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Longford) Network 9 (covering Athlone, Ferbane & Moate)

Network 7 there are currently approximately 1072 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 742 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 8 there are currently approximately 734 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 406 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Network 9 there are currently approximately 600 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 366 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

#### **Laois Offaly – Networks 10,11 & 12)**

In Laois and Offaly there are three (3) Children's Disability Network Teams, namely Network 12 (covering Portlaoise, Stradbally, Mountrath, Borris in Ossary, Abbeyleix and Ballickmoyler), Network 11 (covering Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Edenderry) and Network 10 (covering Banagher, Birr, Clara, Daingean, Shinrone and Tullamore).

In Network 10 there are currently approximately 1205 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 833 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

In Network 11 there are currently approximately 708 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 325 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

In Network 12 there are currently approximately 834 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 453 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Children with non-complex needs will likely not receive an IFSP, but will require MDT supports.

There are some children where the complexity of needs has not been confirmed and the CDNT's are planning to make contact with these families to further understand their needs.

Whilst waiting on provision of an IFSP, children can be provided some other Universal Supports inputs prior to this date depending on the need (Universal Supports are first line of input in format of groups, team facilitation, standardised parent workshops etc. MLM CHO are currently developing waitlist initiatives which families can avail of while awaiting their IFSP.



## Mental Health

### Midlands Mental Health Services:

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Midlands Mental Health Services maintains a waiting list for the CAMHS service which is a multi-disciplinary service. It does not maintain waiting lists for access to uni-disciplinary services such as Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Psychology services. However, upon completion of each CAMHS assessment an individually tailored care plan is prepared for each child. This care plan details and plans the relevant interventions and therapies which are appropriate to the needs of each child.

### Louth Meath Mental Health Services

The four CAMHS Teams in Louth Meath Mental Health Services who have Psychologists in post do not have internal waiting lists. Therefore, there are no children awaiting Psychology services in these CAMHS teams. Currently two CAMHS teams in Louth Meath Mental Health Services have vacant Psychologist posts. These are Louth ELMS and Trim Meath.

The table below sets out in tabular form the number of children on waiting lists in Louth and Meath in Psychology, Occupational Therapy and in Speech and Language Therapy services.

Discipline	Number of Children on waiting list Louth Meath	
	Louth	Meath
Psychology	21	19
Occupational Therapy	7	10
Speech & Language Therapy	260	No SLT in post

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation