



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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11th May 2023

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17281/23 - "To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update and to outline his views on the adequacy of existing mental health supports for children in the Louth and East Meath area; if he will identify those supports; if his attention has been drawn to the significant waiting lists for these essential services; and if he will make a statement on the matter." Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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.

Louth and East Meath Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have been experiencing the impact of the National and International issues in recruiting and retaining required levels of clinical staffing. This has at times created pressures around providing an adequate CAMHS service. Every effort has been and continues to be made to provide as comprehensive a service as possible given the limitations that this poses.

The supports available through the Louth and East Meath CAMHS are as follows:

- A multi-disciplinary team, consisting of a range of skilled professionals, including psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy.
- The use of many evidence based interventions including, but not limited to:
 - Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), is available to suitable candidates. The introduction of DBT teams to CAMHS has reduced presentation to hospital ED for clients who are actively engaged in DBT.
 - Family Based Interventions
 - Compassion Focused Therapy
- The CAMHS Crisis HUB has been developed which allows for early intervention in complex cases with the aim of reducing hospital admissions.

The current waiting list for Louth and East Meath CAMHS is as follows:



| CAMHS Location | Wait List 2023 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| North Louth | 27 |
| South Louth | 25 |
| South Louth/East Meath | 67 |

The waiting lists are consistently monitored and reviewed to ensure safe and efficient management of service users. Accessibility at all times remains prioritised for the most vulnerable patients to ensure an equitable care structure.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Broadbank'.

Carole Broadbank
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation