



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Baile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
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Head of Service Primary Care,
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Mr Alan Farrell TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

14th March 2023

PQ 10027/23 – *“To ask the Minister for Health how many children are waiting for their primary care psychology assessment in the CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* – **Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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

There are 2,233 children waiting for a Primary Care Psychology assessment in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC).

The demand for Primary Care Psychology services in CHO DNCC has grown 40% since 2019, as a result of increasing need at community level and changes to the threshold to access supports in secondary care and specialised pediatric services. We have streamlined our Primary Care Psychology services over the past years as well as moving to offering hybrid attendance models to improve accessibility to core services. A service improvement initiative has been established including staff recruitment and retention initiatives aimed at improving access to services for children waiting longer than 52 weeks. This has contributed to 1,363 children being moved off the waiting list in 2022. It is estimated 1,000 additional children will be seen in 2023.

Psychology advice clinics providing immediate support to children and families waiting for the service have been established with nine running per fortnight across the CHO. Low intensity interventions, such as parent information workshops are also offered to support children waiting for individual appointments or with non-complex needs.

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

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Fitzgerald
Acting Head of Service Primary Care