



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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
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2nd February, 2023

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Questions

63497/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for speech and language therapy appointments in County Longford. -Sorca Clarke

&

63498/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech therapists assigned to County Longford; if that number is sufficient to meet demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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

Social Care Disabilities:

Children's Disability Services: Speech & Language Therapy

Following reconfiguration of children's services under the national framework for progressing services for children and young people; The Children's Disability Network Team captures those awaiting Individual family service plans (IFSP's) and not discipline specific waiting lists e.g. Speech and Language Therapy/ Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy and Psychology as this individual discipline model is no longer in keeping with the Model of Service delivery to be provided through Progressing Disability Services.

Currently the Children's Disability Network Team in Longford has 1.5 senior Speech and Language Therapists in post with a further 1.7 Senior Speech and Language Therapists linked to upcoming campaigns with the National recruitment service. We are looking forward to welcoming new members to our team from newly formed recruitment panels. With these additional resources we will enhance access to our team service and the support we can provide to schools.



CAMHS

The current waiting time for Speech Language Therapist (initial assessment appointments) within the CAMHS service in County Longford is four to five months. The waiting times for Speech Language Therapist (further therapy appointments) with CAMHS service in County Longford is six to eight weeks.

There is currently 0.5 WTE Speech and Language Therapist Designated to Longford CAMHS.

There is currently one Speech and Language Therapist assigned to work across two CAMHS teams in the midlands. It is recommended, within Vision for Change, that each CAMHS Team should have its own designated Speech and Language Therapist assigned.

Primary Care

The current waiting times in Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy 0-18 Children's appointments are as follows:

- Longest Waiting time for Initial assessment = 55 weeks
- Longest waiting time for Initial Therapy = 43 weeks
- Longest waiting time for Further Therapy = 34 weeks

The current waiting times in Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy Adult appointments are as follows:

- Longest Waiting time for Initial assessment = 195 weeks
- Longest waiting time for Initial Therapy = 26 weeks
- Longest waiting time for Further Therapy = 173 weeks

The current staffing for Primary Care 0-18 Children's Services in Longford-Central Westmeath Network is as follows:

Senior Grade Speech and Language Therapy Staff: 1.6 WTE (1 WTE in post 0.6 WTE vacant with approval for 0.5 WTE agency, there is an active process under way with CPL to fill with identified agency staff).

Staff Grade Speech and Language Therapy Staff: 2.0 WTE (1.0 WTE in post commenced 09th January 2023, 1.0 WTE has accepted vacant post awaiting CORU registration).

Current Service Demand: Total Caseload is 563, services users on WL for Initial Assessment / Initial Therapy / Further Therapy = 462



The current staffing for Primary Care Adult Services in Longford-Central Westmeath Network is as follows:

Senior Grade Speech and Language Therapy Staff: 3.0 WTE (2.0 WTE in post of these 1.0 WTE commenced work in September 2022 and 1.0 WTE returned from maternity Leave October 2022) 1.0 WTE vacant – awaiting senior SLT panel completion.

Staff Grade Speech and Language Therapy Staff: 1.0 WTE (1.0 WTE offered to CHO8 staff grade SLT panel in November 2022- no Expression of Interest in this post. Post is vacant).

Current Service demand: Total Caseload is 233, services users on WL for Initial Assessment / Initial Therapy / Further Therapy = 191

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

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