

27th July, 2023

Mr. Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 35516/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children awaiting an assessment of need in Cork South Lee, broken down by whether they are waiting by 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months.”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

Children and young people born on or after 1st June 2002 who are suspected of having a disability can apply for an Assessment of Need (AON) under the Disability Act (2005). The Act allows for an assessment of the child’s health needs. The assessment of need process consists of two stages, the first stage involves a review of the referral to the assessment of need process by an Assessment Officer which is an administrative process. It is a combined desktop and information gathering exercise carried out by an Assessment Officer to include receiving an application, acknowledging its receipt, ensuring the application is completed in full, checking the child’s eligibility, requesting additional reports or information from the parents if they were not supplied with the application.

If appropriate, the child is then referred to stage two of the process, which is for a clinical assessment to determine what a child’s needs are in relation to assessments and intervention.

The ICT data report “Assessment Reports overdue –not yet sent to the Liaison Officer” in Cork South Lee is 248 and the breakdown requested is provided in the following table.

South Lee: Awaiting Assessment of Need

| Waiting up to 3 months | Waiting 3 - 6 months | Waiting 6 - 9 months | Waiting 9 - 12 months+ | Total Waiting |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 62 | 48 | 64 | 74 | 248 |

It is important to note that while any family can refer their child under the Assessment of Need Process, a referral to their local CDNT can also be made at any time. I attach relevant information re same.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare