

23rd June, 2023

Mr. Denis Naughten, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 29104/23

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting a psychology appointment in CHO4; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter"

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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 wish to advise of the following in regard to Primary Care services:

	CKCH
The number of children on the Psychology waiting list in CKCH at the latest available date	3878
The number of children on the Psychology waiting list in CKCH waiting 1 year +	1298
The number of children on the Psychology first-time assessment waiting list in CKCH waiting 2 years +	555
The number of children on the Psychology first-time assessment waiting list in CKCH waiting 3 years + but less than 4 years	266

In preparing this response I liaised with my colleagues Julie O'Neill, Head of Mental Health Services, and Majella Daly, Head of Disability Services, and they have advised of the following in regard to their respective services:

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services:

Service Provider	Psychology numbers	Wait time
CAMHS Cork North Central	6	0-3 Months
CAMHS North Kerry	12	6-12 Months
CAMHS South Kerry	0	
CAMHS North Cork	6	0-3 Months
CAMHS North Lee East	11	3-6 Months

CAMHS North Lee West	5	0-3 Months
CAMHS West Cork	8	0-3 Months
CAMHS South Lee 1	0	
CAMHS South Lee 2	2	0-3 Months
CAMHS South Lee 3	4	0-3 Months

Disability Services

A child's access to services is based on his/her needs, i.e. a diagnosis is not required. Instead of a service providing for children with one type of disability only, resulting in some children unable to access a service, each CDNT provides for all children with complex needs arising from their disability who live in that area. Children with non-complex needs receive services at Primary Care level.

Currently, the teams have large numbers of complex children on their caseloads who require an interdisciplinary team approach and this is provided on a needs basis due to priority and risk to child, young adult, and family in all environments such as home, school and in the community.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of data on those awaiting intervention as at any one time, a number of children may be in receipt of some interventions but may also be waiting for other interventions and without ICT systems, we are unable to provide that level of breakdown at this time. However, please see below table which outlines the current caseload of children and young adults on each Childrens Disability Network Team and the number of children awaiting initial contact:-

Team	Current Caseload	No. of children awaiting initial contact				Total waiting
		0-3 months	4-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	
North Kerry Childrens Disability Network Team	371	12	16	11	0	39
West Kerry Childrens Disability Network Team	372	14	7	17	10	48
South Kerry Childrens Disability Network Team	570	10	2	0	0	12
Northwest Childrens Disability Network Team	671	20	12	7	0	39
Northeast Childrens Disability Network Team	294	17	16	45	59	78
East Central Cork Childrens Disability Network Team	477	9	33	37	85	188
East Cork City Childrens Disability Network Team	266	8	8	22	309	347
Central Cork Childrens Disability Network Team	565	23	4	21	12	39
North Cork City & Blarney Childrens Disability Network Team	332	3	9	20	197	229
West Cork Childrens Disability Network Team	835	7	0	0	0	7
South East Cork City Childrens Disability Network Team	484	13	8	12	115	148
West Central Cork Childrens Disability Network Team	556	11	6	15	197	229
Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon Childrens Disability Network Team	508	2	6	19	245	272
West Central Cork Childrens Disability Network Team	368	2	2	24	62	90

Children who have had an initial contact may then be waiting for the development of their IFSP and thereafter for universal, targeted, or individual interventions, but the data management systems in the five lead agencies, do not enable collection or collation of those statistics currently.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare