



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
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18th July, 2023

Mr. Denis Naughten T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question 29117/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting an occupational therapy appointment in CHO8, the breakdown of 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 have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows;

Primary Care Network	No. of children waiting	Longest Waiter in weeks
Central Meath	123	58
North Meath	29	24
East Meath	314	71
Southwest Meath	111	48
North Louth	569	315
South Louth & Bettystown	541	286
East Westmeath	247	60
Longford & Central Westmeath	241	63
West Westmeath & Northwest Offaly	131	38
South Laois	242	177
Offaly	263	222
North Laois & East Offaly	210	200

Children's Disability services were reconfigured in line with Progressing Disabilities Services for Children and Young People in November 2021. *Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme* (PDS) is a significant change programme for the provision of therapeutic services for children from birth to 18 years of age. It was rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. PDS requires pooling together all resources, including staff, facilities and equipment, from the different voluntary agencies



and the HSE providing specialist children's disability services, in order to set up Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs).

A CDNT comprises of a team of health and social care professionals who provide a range of different supports in an interdisciplinary way. This means that the professionals on the team work together with the child and family. Waiting lists are not kept for individual disciplines as this does not reflect the nature of the support provided for children with complex needs. Children referred and accepted to the CDNT's are now wait listed for an individual family support plan (IFSP) and targeted supports are then provided in line with the needs outlined in the IFSP. The average waiting time for an IFSP in the CDNT's is 14 months.

An IFSP is an Individual Family Support Plan and is developed by the family, child and the members of the CDNT. It guides how the team supports the child. This is a process which requires getting to know the child and their needs (if not already known), preparing the family to create the IFSP and the development of the document along with the development of the supports to address the identified goals which include universal, targeted, and individual supports. Each IFSP is estimated to take up to 12 clinical hours across 2-3 staff to develop over a period of 6 weeks. This does not include the supports delivered after the IFSP to meet the goals and priorities identified. The information provided below is based on September 2022 caseload analysis.

Whilst waiting on provision of an IFSP, children can be provided some other Universal Supports inputs prior to this date depending on the need (Universal Supports are first line of input in format of groups, team facilitation, standardised parent workshops etc) MLM CHO are currently developing waitlist initiatives which families can avail of while awaiting their IFSP.

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 'Carole Broadbank'.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation