



Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

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30th May 2023

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 25938/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are being taken to address the current delays with CAMHS services in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

CAMHS community services in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are delivered across 10 community sector teams and also a Child and Adolescent Regional Eating Disorder Services (CAREDS) Team. In addition, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare provide a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Liaison Service at Cork University Hospital and the Mercy University Hospital.

There has been a recent significant increase in the number of new referrals to CAMHS in this area. In September 2022, CAMHS received 219 new referrals in the month. In March 2023 this figure had increased to 267 new referrals. This has had an impact on the number of children waiting for services. As per March 2023 data, the total number of children waiting more than 12 months to be seen is 341. In general, those waiting longer periods are waiting for assessment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The CAMHS teams in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are taking a multifaceted approach to improving access to their services. Funding has been secured to establish a dedicated ADHD assessment team for Cork / Kerry. This team is expected to remove 120 young people from the waiting list over a six month period. In addition, telemedicine clinics for North Cork are being developed to address the waiting lists in that area. Furthermore, consultant led clinics are ongoing in North Cork at weekends to support access to assessment and supports.

The HSE is continuing to make every effort to recruit staff for its CAMHS teams, however, we are operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. In an effort to address staff shortages, the HSE has launched international recruitment campaigns for qualified healthcare professionals. To support these international campaigns, the HSE is working in partnership with CORU, the regulator, and government departments to maximise this pool.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Julie O' Neill
Interim Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare