



Office of the Head of Service Mental Health
South East Community Healthcare
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Mr Alan Kelly T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

30th September 2024

PQ 36793/24

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons awaiting a psychology report for mental health intellectual disability services in each of the CHO5 areas; the current expected waiting time for an assessment; and the plans he has to extend services within this area before the end of the year.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The needs of adults and children with intellectual disabilities are generally best met in services such as HSE Primary Care and HSE Disability services. However, people may have moderate or severe mental health difficulties in addition to their intellectual disability, which can mean their treatment needs are more complex. The HSE service best suited to an individual patient is determined by the level of the intellectual disability and of the mental health difficulty.

There is currently no specialist Adult MHID Service within Mental Health Services across Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Waterford. In these areas all requests for psychology assessments for MHID are made through Disability Services.

There is currently no Psychology post attached to Wexford Adult MHID. Within the South East CAMHS-ID there is no Psychologist currently assigned to the team.

The mental health policies, Vision for Change and Sharing the Vision, recommend the development of mental health intellectual disability (MHID) teams, to provide population-wide coverage and ensure fair and equal access to mental healthcare for people of all ages with an intellectual disability. It is acknowledged that there is an unmet need for MHID Services across the South East and there is ongoing work to advocate for additional resources.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Donaghey'.

Anne Donaghey
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare