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16/04/2025

Deputy Johnny Mythen TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 18114/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinical sessions typically offered to children and adolescents attending the CHO5 Primary Care Speech & Language Therapy Services; if these clients are placed on another waiting list following discharge in the event that they require ongoing support; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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 Speech & Language Therapy service follows evidence-based care pathways, and the interventions offered are dependent on the clinical need and priority for children and adolescents. Following assessment, clients are wait-listed for therapy as per their clinical priority. Service users are discharged when intervention is no longer indicated, however, clients may be re-referred following discharge as clinically indicated.

The Speech & Language Therapy Services works closely with Children's Disability Services, PCAAT (Primary Care Autism Assessment Team), and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) to ensure that children with complex needs are navigated to a more specialist service as quickly as possible. Speech & Language Therapy Services offer pre-assessment pathways for young children to support early communication and while they are awaiting therapy.

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

Yours sincerely,

Paul Goff
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare