



Oifig an Bhainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte
Comhtháite - Lár na Tíre

Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach
Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 TY28

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22nd May, 2025

Deputy Johnny Guirke T.D.,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 19117/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people waiting for carer funding and for a carer provision for HSE home support in CHO 8; the average wait time per case; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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 response.

In preparing this response I consulted colleagues in Primary Care and Disability Services. I outline response as follows:

Primary Care, CHO8, provides a home nursing service delivered through an individual Paediatric Homecare Package (PHCP) for Children with Complex Healthcare Needs. This involves the provision of a contracted number of nursing hours by a preferred private healthcare provider, procured by the HSE through a framework contract.

Primary Care, CHO8, do not hold a waiting list for PHCP for Children with Complex Healthcare Needs. PHCP's commence as soon as possible.

Once a referral is received, the Nursing Coordinator arranges to meet with the child/family to complete a Paediatric Community Assessment Tool (PCAT). This assessment determines if the child is eligible/suitable for a PHCP within Primary Care under the Children with Complex Healthcare Needs model. A Business Case is then submitted, once approved, the PHCP issues out to tender for agencies that are listed on the framework to apply. Agencies have 2-3 weeks to respond to the tender.

Once the tender is awarded, a commencement date is agreed with the family and the agency.

Commencement date of PHCP's can be dependent on factors such as, when a child is discharged from Hospital, and if the home is suitable for the nurse to provide nursing care etc.



The following table details the number of active PHCP's in CHO8:

Area	Number of PHCP
Laois/Offaly	24
Longford/Westmeath	8
Louth	1
Meath	12
Total	45

In relation to Disability Services – CHO8, I outline the position as follows in tabular format for the four (4) areas across the former CHO:

Laois/ Offaly

	Total Number on waitlist	Longer than 1 month	Longer than 3 months	Longer than 6 months	Longer than 12 months
Number of Children on Waitlist	27	2	5	4	16
Number of adults on intellectual disability waitlist	4		1		3
Number of adults on Physical and Sensory waiting list	Nil				

Longford / Westmeath

	Total Number on waitlist	Longer than 1 month	Longer than 3 months	Longer than 6 months	Longer than 12 months
Number of Children on Waitlist	53		2	10	41
Number of adults on intellectual disability waitlist	23	2		7	14
Number of adults on Physical and Sensory waiting list	16	2	3	5	5



Meath

	Total Number on waitlist	Longer than 1 month	Longer than 3 months	Longer than 6 months	Longer than 12 months
Number of Children on Waitlist	73	5	8	47	13
Number of adults on intellectual disability waitlist	7	2	3	2	0
Number of adults on Physical and Sensory waiting list	8	1	2	1	4

Louth

At present there are no packages awaiting Home Support for Louth.

Home Support applications are reviewed monthly by a multidisciplinary Community Support Forum (CSF) which determines the level of support required and prioritises cases based on individual needs and living circumstances.

The commencement of services however for approved applicants is not solely dependent on funding. Delays may also arise due to:

- Ongoing recruitment and retention challenges faced by organisations commissioned by the HSE to provide home support services;
- Clients declining to proceed with approved services after arrangements are made (these clients remain on the waitlist);
- Difficulty in identifying appropriate staffing in terms of experience, particularly for children's services;

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,

Carole Broadbank
Integrated Healthcare Area Manager, Midlands
Dublin and Midlands Regional Area