



Head of Service Primary Care

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Ms Emer Currie TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: emer.currie@oireachtas.ie

PQ 20545/25 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinical sessions typically offered to children and adolescents attending CHO9 primary care speech and language therapy services; whether clients are placed on a further waiting list following discharge if ongoing support is required; and if she will make a statement on the matter”* **Emer Currie TD**

Dear Deputy Currie,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Integrated Health Areas Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Team have advised the typical number of sessions per block of therapy is 6 sessions. Following therapy blocks, children and young people are placed on a list for further therapy, if they require same. They will be offered further therapy blocks of, typically 6 sessions as they require.

Children and young people are typically not discharged if they still have active speech and language therapy needs, unless the child/young person is

- ✓ referred and accepted to the waiting list for another service which has Speech and Language Therapy
- ✓ the parent/carer requests discharge
- ✓ the needs are mild and indicators are that intervention is not required to continue progress
- ✓ the family move home outside our area, in which case the care would be transferred to the local most appropriate service

The SLT team have a broad scope covering children and young people with a wide range of speech, language, stammering, voice and social communication needs.

- SLT group intervention is generally 6 sessions
- Individual 1:1 therapy is generally 6 to 8 sessions

- Parent mediated intervention such as Hanen More than Words and Elklan Under 5 ranges from 9 to 12 sessions
- Children with more significant needs and specific presentations 16 to 24 sessions of SLT may be provided as part of an episode of care if clinically indicated

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

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and
Dublin North City & West