



Oifig an Bhainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte  
Comhtháite - Lár na Tíre

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18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Mr. Micheál Carrigy, T.D.,  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Question - 2608/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children awaiting their initial Speech and Language appointment through the Phoenix Centre/Longford Primary Care Centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Carrigy,

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. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

The National Programme called Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children and Young People is now implemented. The PDS model of service delivery is team focused with functional family goals rather than blocks of intervention with individual disciplines as was the practice in the past. Interdisciplinary teams provide a more integrated model of service delivery. Therefore the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) including the Longford / Central Westmeath Team operating out of Phoenix Centre are no longer keeping waiting lists for separate disciplines within the team as this does not reflect the nature of support provided for children with complex needs.

With regard to your request for numbers waiting relating to Longford Primary Care, I can confirm that there are currently 419 children awaiting an initial assessment in paediatric/Children and Young Person's Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy 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,



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