



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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18th February, 2025

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

Re: Parliamentary Question - 2611/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children awaiting their initial Psychologist assessment 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 the 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.

In relation to your 2nd query, the Longford Westmeath Primary Care Psychology service delivers psychological intervention to children, adolescents and adults with mild to moderate psychological distress. The service provides assessment and intervention.

In recent years, due to the reconfiguration of services nationally, hundreds of children in our area, transferred into the Primary Care service to have their psychological needs met.

This was a huge reconfiguration of services to occur. There are currently 2.6 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) staff in the Longford Primary Care Psychology



team. One of these posts (1.0 WTE) was vacant until July 2024 and is to be vacated again in the coming week.

There are currently 400 children waiting for assessment and/or intervention in Longford Primary Care Psychology.

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