



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 - 2612/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current waiting times for paediatric Speech and Language Therapy through 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. In this regard the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) have replaced the former Early Intervention and School Age Teams. 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 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.

With regard to Primary Care, all referrals for children who are referred for Speech and Language therapy (SLT) services in Primary Care are processed in date order and are processed as soon as is reasonably possible with the resources available.

The Longford SLT paediatric service has experienced a significant increase of referrals as a result of the national roll out of the national access policy.

The current longest waiter on the routine Speech and Language therapy Primary Care waiting list is 64 weeks.



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