



Oifig an Bhainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte  
Comhtháite - Lár na Tíre

Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach  
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26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

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

**Re: Parliamentary Question - 2614/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current waiting times for paediatric Psychology assessment 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.

In response to your second 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, were 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.

The current wait time at present for children and adolescents in Longford Primary Care is 112 weeks.

However, we endeavour to meet children's needs quicker by offering evidence based group interventions. If a child's presenting problems are deemed suitable to be addressed via a group intervention, the wait time is considerably shorter, perhaps in the order of 6 – 9 months.

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