



Office of the Assistant National Director  
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,  
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísi  
Meabhairshláinte FSS  
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Deputy Sorca Clarke,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

2 July 2025

**PQ Number: 35445/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of hiring the full multidisciplinary CAMHS teams needed to ensure no child waits longer than eight weeks for an initial assessment. - Sorca Clarke**

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Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Internationally 18 weeks would be seen as normal guide for routine referrals, the HSE has a 12-week target.

Many young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties can be treated at primary care level and make progress without needing to access specialist mental health services. Primary Care services include GPs, Jigsaw and other funded agencies in the community and voluntary sector, Primary Care Psychology services and Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) which is available to those over 18.

CAMHS is a specialist clinical service for people under 18 with moderate to severe mental health difficulties. It is not for everyone; only a small percentage (approx. 2%) of the population would require access to this service. There are 730 Clinical staff working across the 81 CAMHS Community Mental Health Teams nationwide. All teams screen the referrals received.

Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high-risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe.

As of the end of May 2025, 71.5% of referrals accepted by child and adolescent community teams nationally were offered an appointment within 12 weeks.

Nationally, 97.4% of urgent referrals to CAMHS were responded to within three working days.

CAMHS teams are multi-disciplinary and consist of a range of skilled professionals, including psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. Each team member has clear professional governance and reporting relationships, as relevant to their specific discipline.



Under current legislation, the consultant psychiatrist has particular responsibilities with regard to clinical leadership within the CAMHS team, and is supervised in this role by the Executive Clinical Director, or by the CAMHS Clinical Director where this post is in place. Within each HSE region, and reporting to the Regional Executive Officer, service delivery is overseen by the Integrated Healthcare Area manager. As part of the implementation of the national mental health policy, Sharing the Vision, the HSE will collaborate with the Department of Health and all relevant stakeholders to review existing structures and progress a shared governance model, in line with international practice.

Sharing the Vision is an ambitious strategy that will transform the way we deliver mental health support and services over the next ten years. A number of recommendations within the policy relate to CAMHS and mental health services for young people. Initiatives are underway to improve service provision for young people attending CAMHS as well as those receiving services at primary care level. An implementation plan with details around all of the policy recommendations is due to be published later this quarter.

CAMHS	Gap investment Cost Including PRSI & 10% non-pay to fully staff 102 CAMHS (excluding existing staffing cost)
National	€34,752,624
HSE Dublin & Midlands (Area B)	€7,544,607
HSE Dublin & North East (Area A)	€7,133,500
HSE Dublin & South East (Area C)	€8,329,997
HSE Mid-West (Area E)	€2,672,818
HSE South West (Area D)	€3,972,946
HSE North & North West (Area F)	€5,098,756

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Paul Braham**  
**Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)**  
**Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services**