



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Elmhurst
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Teil: 061 461435/061 461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
Elmhurst
St. Joseph's Hospital
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313

Violet Anne Wynne
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

31 May 2024

PQ ref 17217/24: To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he is aware that Clare Early Intervention Services often deems children with additional needs as not meeting the criteria threshold, a decision often arrived at without any meeting; if he is concerned that children with additional needs are not meeting criterions in respect of disability in CAMHS and CEIS; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Ms Wynne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

We are aware of the challenges for families and children and young people in having to wait to access the service and we are sorry that children & young people have to wait to access CAMHS.

In accordance with the HSE CAMHS Operational Guideline (HSE, 2019) CAMHS offers assessment and treatment to children and young people with moderate to severe mental health difficulties. In general, all referrals of children and young people to CAMHS are prioritised according to the acuity of the presentation outlined in the referral and any other collateral information provided and/or any other relevant information provided while the child is on the waiting list.

CAMHS in the Mid West has achieved significant improvement in terms of waiting times for CAMHS. In order to ensure that waiting times for CAMHS for children with moderate to severe mental illness is reduced as much as is practically possible, all referrals are screened and triaged so that children who do not have moderate to severe mental illness, are directed to the appropriate Primary Care/Services Education or Disability Services.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nuala Kelly'.

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service - Mental Health Service,
Mid-West Community Healthcare