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14/05/2024

Deputy Michael Lowry TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 19011/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the steps that have been taken to reduce paediatric primary care wait lists in South Tipperary; if he will give a commitment to improve the waiting times for children waiting to access these much needed appointments in 2024, many of whom are waiting over 12 months for an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

Therapy Waiting Lists for South Tipperary Primary Care Services are influenced by both demand for service and capacity to deliver.

The referral rate across all therapies continues to increase ranging from 6% - 46% across the therapies.

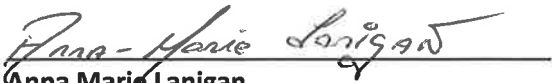
A number of waiting list initiatives have been put in place to reduce waiting lists;

1. Increased use of group therapy where clinically appropriate.
2. Alternative therapies introduced e.g. Psychotherapy, Play Therapy for Psychology patients.
3. Pre-assessment of all Speech and Language Paediatric referrals and new pathways trialled to standardise patient journey for non-urgent/routine care patients.
4. Upgrade of therapy spaces in Cashel. e.g. OT has acquired space in St Benedict's on the grounds of St Patricks
5. Multidisciplinary approach to care.

Whilst the current recruitment embargo has a direct impact on the staffing resources and the ability to address the lengthening wait lists the above initiatives are delivering service efficiencies within available resources.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna-Marie Lanigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

**Anna Marie Lanigan**

**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant Director  
South East Community Healthcare**