

30th July, 2024

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 33617/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists designated in a full-time capacity to the Carrigaline primary care centre; if there are locums; and the plans to recruit further in this regard."

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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 response.

Primary Care Child, Adolescent & Family Psychology Service referrals are managed through the South Lee area which includes CHN11, CHN12, CHN 13, CHN14. The funded Wte at December 2023 for South Lee Core primary care was 1 senior and 3.5 staff grade of which .17 senior and 3.5 staff grades are vacant. Due to the limitations of the funded resource there is no psychologist for HSE Primary Care services based out of Carrigaline Primary Care Centre.

The staffing currently available to cover all of these areas is one Senior Psychologist working 30 hours per week and administrative support. The Psychology Assistant who was covering this areas is leaving the service on 2nd August, 2024.

With regards to Adult Primary Care psychology services there is some cover provided by a staff grade psychologist who is currently based in Kinsale PCC and covers Bandon and Kinsale.

Primary care level mental health supports (counselling / family support) are available to many clients via Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) for adults adults; Jigsaw; Family Resource centres; Barnardos and low-cost counselling services.

During the HSE recruitment embargo for Health & Social Care Professionals vacancies in replacement and new development posts have not been filled nor has cover been achieved for statutory leave. All documentation has been submitted by the service manager for approvals within the revised pay and numbers ceiling.

Posts approved for filling will be progressed by way of National HSE panels for Senior, Staff Grade and Psychology Assistant grades. If necessary where posts are not filled from the NRS local temporary recruitment will take place e.g. local interviews from CVs received and advertising via universities to graduates of professional psychology programmes.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare