



**Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí**

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14th June 2024

Deputy Danny Healy Rae,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23009/24

“To ask the Minister for Health for an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied:

“What is waiting time to be seen by a child Psychiatrist under CAMHS Kerry and following the assessment how long before the results are provided to the parents of the child /teen?”

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

The provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) services operates within a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) structure consisting of Medical personnel, Nursing, Social Work, Psychology, Speech & Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists. The Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist is the Clinical Lead for the CAMHS team.

If a young person requires prescribed medication, this will require the input and supervision of one of the Psychiatry team. However not all young people referred to CAMHS necessitate assessment by a Psychiatrist. Alternative therapies and interventions may be more appropriate depending on their presenting symptoms and/or diagnosis. CAMHS recognises the importance of tailored approaches to treatment and strives to provide comprehensive care that aligns with individual needs. This determination is made locally by the team during their weekly Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings, which aims to formulate a personalised care plan specific to the needs of each young person.

The waiting time for access to a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist is dependent on several factors, such as the type of symptoms the young person is presenting with, as well as the severity of these symptoms. If a referral is deemed urgent the young person will be seen by a Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist or Registrar within a short period of time. For example in May 2024, the North Kerry CAMHS team handled three urgent referrals, all of which received a response within one day. Of these urgent referrals, all young individuals were seen within a timeframe ranging from 7 days to 4 weeks.

It is also important to emphasise that although a young person may not always engage directly with a Psychiatrist during their CAMHS journey, their case remains under regular review and discussion within the MDT meetings. This ongoing collaboration ensures that the Consultant and Psychiatry team maintain oversight, provide input, and contribute to the governance of the young person's care, thereby ensuring comprehensive support throughout their treatment.

In response to the second part of your question, once a young person has been assessed by the CAMHS team, a comprehensive letter is sent to the referrer, typically the GP, this occurs approximately one week



following the appointment. Parents are routinely copied into this correspondence to facilitate ongoing communication regarding the young person's care and progress.

In addition to the updated letter a more detailed Initial Assessment report is also written and sent to the referrer and parents. This is usually completed and sent within one month of the Initial Assessment.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie O' Neill
Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare