



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
St. Loman's Hospital,
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
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Deputy Martin Browne.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

26th November 2024

PQ Number: 43978/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals made to both CAMHS teams in County Tipperary in 2024; the number of referrals accepted; the number of referrals rejected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams. In 2019, the HSE published the CAMHS Operating Guideline (COG) in order to streamline processes according to best practice. The purpose of the Operational Guideline is to provide consistency in the service delivery of CAMHS throughout the country. The COG sets out the referral criteria for the types of referrals suitable for CAMHS and the types of referrals not suitable for CAMHS (see link to full document below).

In accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the COG, children or young people referred to community CAMHS must fulfil the following criteria:

- The child or adolescent is under 18 years old
- Consent for the referral has been obtained from the parent(s)
- The child or adolescent presents with a suspected moderate to severe mental disorder
- Comprehensive treatment at primary care level has been unsuccessful or was not appropriate in the first instance

Referrals are not accepted by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services if they do not meet the referral threshold of moderate-severe mental illness/ mental health difficulties.

As Co. Tipperary crosses two Regional Health Authorities, I have liaised with the Office of Head of Service for Mental Health for **HSE Dublin and South East** covering Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, East Wicklow and parts of Dublin South and the Office of Head of Service for **HSE Midwest** Mental Health services covering Clare, North Tipperary and Limerick.



The information in the table below has been provided in respect of South Tipperary.

CAMHS Team South Tipperary	No. of Referrals received *	No. of Referrals Accepted*	No. of Referrals Not Accepted*
CAMHS Team 1	160	120	40
CAMHS Team 2	212	91	111

Source: *KPI's 2024

The information in the table below has been provided in respect of North Tipperary.

CAMHS Team	No. of Referrals received	No. of Referrals Accepted	No. of Referrals Not Accepted
North Tipperary East	128	115	13
North Tipperary West	160	126	34

Further information on the CAMHS Operational Guideline can be found here:

<https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/ncr/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Hennessey
General Manager
Access and Integration: HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office