

8th April 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 15th March 2022, you requested the following information:

I have heard that there are many vacancies with the CAMHs service around the country, and that this is impacting waitlists and services.

1. Can I find out how many roles there are in total, how many are empty, and how long they have been empty?
2. Can I also find out what the current waitlist is for the services and is it possible to find out how many, or the percentage of people, are dropping off the list?

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

1. Can I find out how many roles there are in total, how many are empty, and how long they have been empty?

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Role	Budgeted FTE	FTE in position	How long roles have been vacant?
Senior Medical Officer	11	7.8	Vacant for 3 years and covered over the years with short to medium term locum psychiatrists
Registrar Medical Officer	2	2	

Nurse Practitioner	2	2	
Clinical Nurse Specialist	2	2	
Clinical Coordinator	4	2	New Clinical Coordinator 1.0FTE to start in April 2022.
Social Worker	10	8.5	Vacant for about 1 year
Registered Nurse	23.8	13.4	Does not include 3.0FTE New Graduate Registered Nurses
Occupational Therapist	9	8	Does not include 1.0FTE Intern Occupational Therapist
Clinical Psychologist	13	10.3	New Clinical Psychologist 0.8FTE to start in June 2022. Does not include 2.0FTE Intern Clinical Psychologist
Youth Advisor	1	1	
Child and Family Therapist	2	1	
Team Managers	2	2	
TOTAL	81.8	60	

2. Can I also find out what the current waitlist is for the services and is it possible to find out how many, or the percentage of people, are dropping off the list?

By the end of March 2022, a total of 1,120 children and youth were accessing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service with 71 new referrals opened in the same month.

For the month of March, the service reported 70% of new referrals of children were seen within 3 weeks of receiving the referral (MoH target – 80%) and 93% were seen within 8 weeks (MoH target – 95%). This is much higher for youth between the age of 18 – 25 years with 81% seen within 3 weeks and 94% seen within 8 weeks.

Since COVID-19 the service has continued to offer different appointment options including face to face at a preferred location including home, school or onsite at several of our community sites. A virtual option is also available to make it convenient as possible for the young person and family to attend. An appointment letter is sent to confirm the appointment date, time and venue and text reminders are sent out days before the appointment. These measures are in place to ensure children, young people along with their parents/caregivers are seen in a timely manner.

The service will discharge children and young people from the service at the agreement of the parents or consenting young person and no referral, once opened is “dropped” without agreement of the service. In the event where a young person and/or family appointment is missed, the service will follow-up to understand what has happened and further arrangements are then made.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Peter Watson
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health