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## **WRITTEN QUESTION FOR SUBMISSION TO EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MUSTARD**

#### **Impact of Rowan Centre Assessment & Treatment Waiting Times**

Four years ago, Scottish Government and NHSG provided £1m each to improve child and adolescent mental health services in Grampian. The proposals focused on improving these services across Grampian with the Rowan Centre being part of those planned improvements. The Rowan Centre is “A support service for all agencies working with children and young people around mental health issues and a multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment services for children and young people, their families and carers”.

According to Public Health Scotland who publish national figures on waiting times for these services:

For the quarter ending March 2022, across Scotland:

- Seven out of ten (73.2%) of children and young people were seen within 18 weeks of referral.
- The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS [Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services].
- In NHS Grampian 96.8% of children were seen within 18 weeks during March 2022. 13 children had to wait 18-35 weeks, and one child up to a year.

Despite the national and regional performance listed above, some families in Moray are reporting extremely long waiting time from referral to assessment and treatment from the Rowan Centre which they consider is impacting on their child or young person's ability to cope with school and family life. Families believe that the assessment is crucial to supporting their child or young person because Moray Council's access to “Universal Services with Support (stage 2)” or “Targeted Intervention (stage 3)” requires an assessment and therefore delays in assessment .

Are the performance statistics for the Rowan Centre showing delays in assessment and if so, what is the impact of the delays in assessment on the child or young person's access to stage 2 or 3 level of Additional Support Needs support

## **RESPONSE**

Waiting times for the Rowan Centre will be an NHS issue, however in terms of accessing Additional Support Needs support within schools there is no requirement for an assessment/diagnosis from the Rowan Centre. The allocation of resource is based on teacher assessment of additional support needs from a learning/teaching and wellbeing perspective in line with the ASN legislation. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act (2009) is structured around the concept of support being needed for any reason, and for short or long periods determined by the individual learning needs of the child or young person.