

23rd September 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 45702/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the details of the staffing levels including the number of persons in each role for each of the children's disability network teams operating in County Cork; and the number of children each team has assigned to them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare reconfigured children's disability services to Childrens Disability Network Teams under the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS) in April 2021. PDS is a significant change programme for the provision of services and supports for children from birth to 18 years of age, in line with Sláintecare and the Programme for Government, in order to:

- Provide a clear pathway and fairer access to services for all children with a disability
- Make the best use of available resources for the benefit of all children and their families
- Ensure effective teams are working in partnership with families and with education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

PDS aligns with two clear objectives of The Sláintecare Report to:

- Provide the majority of care at or as close to home as possible
- Create an integrated system of care with healthcare professionals working closely together.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Every child with complex needs arising from a disability will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend. The CDNT work collaboratively with the child and family to identify the needs and priorities of the

child and family, plan goals and develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). This is a written plan that focuses on the strengths and needs of the child and family, incorporating their priorities and concerns. Children and their families will have access to the full range of services and supports of the CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and direct supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to consultation and assessment when needed. Supports will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

It is the objective of the CDNTs to ensure that all children transferred and newly referred will have timely access to the appropriate services, however the CDNTs have experienced significant challenges in the months since reconfiguration. Challenges include higher than predicted caseloads on each CDNT, restraints due to Covid and the HSE cyber-attack as well as finite and limited publicly funded resources assigned to each network. The HSE and the Lead Agencies managing the CDNTs remain committed to ensure a safe, quality and timely service to children with disability and their families. As the teams are newly established since April 2021 the HSE are not in a position to provide information on current unmet needs but are closely monitoring the numbers of children on caseloads and the numbers of children with Individual Family Service Plans. This information will determine the resource need for each network. Below is the current staff resource on each team inclusive of staff who were reconfigured from children's disability teams as well as Phase 1 and Phase 2 2021 Development Posts.

CDNT		TOTAL WTE	
CDNT 4 - North West Cork	Physiotherapist	2.00	21.93
	Occupational Therapist	4.40	
	Speech & Language Therapist	5.55	
	Psychologist	3.00	
	Social Worker	2.30	
	Nursing	0.90	
	Family Support	2.98	
	Administration	0.80	
CDNT 5 – North East Cork	Physiotherapy	2.00	11.73
	Occupational Therapy	1.90	
	Speech & Language Therapy	1.68	
	Psychology	1.86	
	Social Worker	1.00	
	Nursing	1.00	
	Family Support	1.29	
	Administration	1.00	
CDNT 6 – East Cork Central	Physiotherapy	2.00	13.96
	Occupational Therapy	3.00	
	Speech & Language Therapy	2.44	
	Psychology	2.28	
	Social Worker	0.84	
	Nursing	1.00	
	Family Support	0.8	
	Clinical Support	0.5	
Administration	1.1		



CDNT 13 – Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon	Physiotherapy	1.50	13.47
	Occupational Therapy	2.50	
	Speech & Language Therapy	3.00	
	Psychology	2.50	
	Social Worker	1.00	
	Nursing	0.46	
	Family Support	0.96	
	Clinical Support	0.80	
	Administration	1.56	
CDNT 14	Physiotherapy	1.50	27.19
	Occupational Therapy	2.50	
	Speech & Language Therapy	3.00	
	Psychology	2.50	
	Social Worker	1.00	
	Nursing	0.46	
	Family Support	0.96	
	Clinical Support	0.80	
	Administration	0.82	

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely

Majella Daly

Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

