



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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9th January 2024

Mr Paul McAuliffe TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: paul.mcauliffe@oireachtas.ie

PQ 55840/23 “To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide an update on the number of vacancies in the CDNT in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” **Paul McAuliffe TD**

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The twelve Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNT) within Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) are managed by the Lead Agencies; Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), AVISTA, St Michael’s House (SMH) and HSE. They have worked closely together to achieve the change process, mitigate risks and promote the new model of service.

This has seen all twelve CHO DNCC CDNTs provide the new model of service for children with disabilities and their families over the past 24 months. The introduction of CDNTs represents an evidence-based fundamental shift to a child and family-centred model of care. The new model of service involves a family setting and achieving their own goals, supported by an interdisciplinary team. The ultimate goal of this model of service is to enable children to flourish at home and in their community.

The following table provides an overview of vacant therapist roles per team. The figures provided are Working Time Equivalent (WTE). This information was collected in the last Staff Census in June 2023.

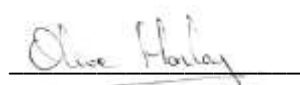
CDNT Network	Number of vacant Occupational Therapist positions	Number of vacant Speech and Language Therapist positions	Number of vacant Physiotherapist positions	Number of vacant Psychologist positions
Balbriggan	1	3.50	3.40	4
Swords	1.10	2.70	0.12	1.52
Coastal	1	0	1.50	1
Coolock	1	0	0	0
Kilbarrack	2.8	0	2.10	3.6
Finglas	1	0.60	0	1
NIC	1	0	1.50	1
Ballymun	0.25	1	0	0
Cabra/Grangegorman	1.5	3	0	2
Clontarf	1	0.80	2	0.33
Blanchardstown	0.5	1	0	1
Blakestown	3	3	2	4
*Totals	15.15	15.60	12.62	19.45

*Please note the total vacancies refer to the Whole-Time Equivalents (WTE), not the individual. Whole-time equivalent is a unit of measurement that indicates the workload of an employed person in a way that makes workloads comparable across various contexts and is not always represented in whole numbers.

The CDNTs are experiencing a number of challenges, in particular recruitment and retention of key health services staff including psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians and physiotherapists among others. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. CHO DNCC is experiencing vacancies ranging from 20-50% across the 12 CDNTs.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability