



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

26th January 2024

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 1889/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children on disability service waiting lists for children's disability networks teams, by CHO/CDNT at the end of each month of each year 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the average length of wait; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow. However, there are significant challenges for CDNTs including:

- Significant staffing vacancies
- Growth in numbers of children with complex need
- Growth in demand for Assessment of Need, diverting further resources away from interventions.

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

The Roadmap is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

Based on the CDNT Staffing Census (Oct 2022), there are over 700 vacant whole time equivalent posts in CDNTs. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects



of the health services. The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. The HSE Community Operations Disability Services is working collaboratively with the CDNT lead agencies at CHO level to promote CDNTs as a workplace of choice in a competitive employment market.

The Roadmap actions includes a robust suite of 60 actions, including 21 on CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, and many of which are now in train.

The HSE will complete a Project Plan this month (January 2024) to support the roll out of the Roadmap. CHO Information Sessions and CDNTs workshops, paused in November 2023 due to industrial action, will be reset pending agreement from the trade unions. The Roadmap Governance and Implementation Structures including monthly Working Groups and Service Improvement Programme Board will commence at that point.

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

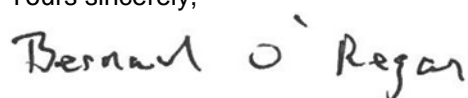
Historically the number of children waitlisted for children’s disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of CDNTs in 2021 has facilitated the collection of this data. A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is being rolled out and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs. 34 CDNTs are live at this time.

Pending full roll-out, manual data collection is on-going. The table below is the most recent validated data available. - end of August 2023 activity reports due to the ongoing industrial action. This shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 9 CHO Areas.

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	123.00	165.00	303.00	144.00	104.00	104.00	112.00	377.00	92
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	132.00	140.00	295.00	127.00	88.00	101.00	201.00	401.00	79
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	97.00	119.00	308.00	224.00	232.00	196.00	355.00	505.00	196
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	98.00	407.00	431.00	834.00	1496.00	903.00	1820.00	1064.00	2506

Please also note that this is an interim dataset as we await the roll out of the National Information Management System and some individual CDNTs indicate that they do not have a system in place to capture this level of activity, therefore there are gaps in data returns for some of the CHO Areas

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations

