

22nd January 2024

Sean Canney TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

PQ 2703/24

"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he is aware of the lack of services available in the CDNT7 area in 2024 due to the shortage of staff and specialists; to provide a schedule of the staff in place and a schedule of the staff levels required to run the level properly; when the full complement of staff will be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Canney

I refer to PQ 2703/24 uploaded on the PAD System on the 17th January 2024 and due for response on the 7th February 2024 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth concerning " if he is aware of the lack of services available in the CDNT7 area in 2024 due to the shortage of staff and specialists; to provide a schedule of the staff in place and a schedule of the staff levels required to run the level properly; when the full complement of staff will be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter." The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position at 22nd January 2024.

Discipline	WTE Allocated	In Post	Vacant
Physiotherapy	4.8	4.8	0
Speech & Language Therapy	6.5	4.5	2
Occupational Therapy	6.3	5.3	1
Psychology	5.4	3.9	1.5
Social Work	1.8	1.8	0
Nursing/Preschool Liaison	1.31	0.81	0.5
Behaviour Support	1	0.4	0.6
CDNM	1	1	0
Clerical	3	3	0

The above allocation to CDNT7 includes therapy assistants, staff grades and senior therapists at the 7th January 2024. The staff vacancy rate for CDNT7 has improved and has reduced from 39% to 31% this month – an increase of 2.6WTE since December 2023. It was planned to have 3.6 staff commence duty, however, regrettably, a senior SLT later declined to take up the post she was offered. A Physiotherapist Assistant, Social Worker and part time Psychologist recently commenced working in CDNT7.

Due to the challenges in recruitment, there is a significant impact on the number of children awaiting intervention from CDNT7. Intensive recruitment efforts are ongoing through local and national panels. An overseas recruitment programme is currently being rolled out in conjunction with National HSE HR. A national campaign has recently been launched by the HSE to recruit specifically to

CDNTs and it is planned for CDNT7 to utilise this recruitment campaign to support address vacancies.

A recently devised Service Plan has been developed for CDNT7 and is being implemented. This includes all families having an updated Individualised Family Service Plan in 2024 in line with Progressing Disability Services. Running in parallel, will be an increased focus of intervention delivery with application of universal and targeted supports for families currently waiting. The HSE has committed to completing an internal review of the delivery of services in CDNT 7 which is due to commence by the end of January 2024.

We will continue to work to make a difference, make changes and build a sustainable and better service for children.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely



General Manager
Children's Disability Services
Community Healthcare West