



Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Cúram Michumais General Manager of Disability Services – Louth Meath

Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire
An Lú, An Mhí,
Oifig Ceantair, Bóthar Cheanannais, Bhaile
Átha Fhirdia, Co. Lú

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12th September 2024

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ ref 32061/24 To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 510 of 14 May 2024, if he will provide an update on the existing staff, by grade, in the four CDNTs serving County Meath; the existing staff vacancies, by grade, in the same area; the number of children accessing services and on waiting lists; his plans to address staff vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

Staff Vacancies:

The tables below outline the current staffing number allocation, filled or vacant for each of the Children's Disability Network Teams. Please be advised that the statistics provided below are continually changing and are the available data at the point in time of issue of response.

CDNT 2

Post	CDNT 2 Allocated WTE	CDNT 2 Vacancies
CDNM	1	0
Administration Grade III	2	1.2
Administration Grade IV	0.4	0.4
Psychologist Senior	2	0.38
Psychologist Staff Grade	1	1
Psychologist Assistant	1	1
Behavioural Therapist	0.5	0.5
OT Senior	2.8	0.3
OT Staff Grade	1	1
Physiotherapist Senior	1.8	1
Nursing CNM2	1	0
SLT Senior	3.6	1.2
SLT Staff Grade	1	1
Social Worker Senior	1	1
CDNT's Total WTE	20.1	9.98

CDNT 4

Post	CDNT 4 Allocated WTE	CDNT 4 Vacancies
CDNM	1	0
Administration Grade III	1	0
Administration Grade IV	2	0
Psychologist Senior	2.86	1.86
Psychologist Staff Grade	2	0
OT Senior	3.78	2
OT Staff Grade	1.56	1
OT Assistant	1	0
Physiotherapist Clinical Specialist	1	0
Physiotherapist Senior	1.6	1.6
Physiotherapist Staff Grade	0.8	0
Nursing CNM2	1	0
SLT Senior	4.76	1.96
SLT Staff Grade	3	2
SLT Assistant	1	1
Social Worker Senior	1	0
Social Worker Staff Grade	1	1
Child Family Support Worker	1.2	0.8
CDNT's Total WTE	31.56	13.22

CDNT 5

Post	CDNT 5 Allocated WTE	CDNT 5 Vacancies
CDNM	1	0
Administration Grade III	1.8	0
Administration Grade IV	0.6	0
Psychologist Senior	3.6	0.55
Psychologist Staff Grade	0.8	0.2
OT Senior	4.1	3
OT Assistant	1	0
Physiotherapist Senior	1.99	0.64
Physiotherapist Staff Grade	1	0
Nursing CNM2	1.64	0.84
SLT Senior	5.23	1.63
SLT Staff Grade	2	0
Social Worker Senior	1.6	1
CDNT's Total WTE	26.36	7.86

CDNT 6

Post	CDNT 6 Allocated WTE	CDNT 6 Vacancies
CDNM	1	0
Administration Grade III	1	0
Administration Grade IV	1	0
Psychologist Senior	2	1
Psychologist Staff Grade	2	2
Psychologist Assistant	1	1
Behavioural Therapist	0.5	0
OT Clinical Specialist	1	1
OT Senior	1	0
OT Staff Grade	3	2
Physiotherapist Senior	1.8	0
Physiotherapist Staff Grade	1	1
Nursing CNM2	1	0
SLT Senior	2.67	0
SLT Staff Grade	2	2
Social Worker Senior	1	1
Social Worker Staff Grade	1	0
CDNT's Total WTE	23.97	11

CHO8 are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. These challenges are not unique to this CHO and are affecting many teams across the country and across many clinical disciplines, which is having an impact on service delivery.

The HSE is also currently actively engaged in various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts which will positively impact on waiting times for all disciplines.

Recruitment is a high priority and multiple competitions have and continue to take place in efforts to fill all vacancies. The national pool is limited and although every effort is being made to maximise this pool through links with colleges and universities, there remains a significant deficit nationally in many of the clinical professions.

To supplement the national pool, the HSE is continuing to source candidates through the international market. The HSE is supported in this recruitment initiative by international recruitment partners who will engage and recruit with interested applicants on behalf of the service and to HSE standards.

All efforts are being made to ensure that all opportunities available through current panels are taken to fill the posts.

The HSE and government have committed to filling funded vacancies in the CDNTs.

Number of children accessing services:

The table below outlines the number of children accessing services in each Children's Disability Network Team in Co. Meath.

CDNT	Number of Children Accessing services	No. of children on waiting lists
2	575	96
4	616	269
5	679	123
6	462	311 (includes 69 AON referrals)

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Wanetta Duff
General Manager, Disability Services, HSE Louth Meath CHO