

17th May 2024

Seán Canney TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

PQ/20499/24

"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 staff in place and the staff levels required to run the service property; 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/20499/24 uploaded on the PAD System on the 7th May 2024 and due for response on the 20th May 2024 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth concerning "the lack of services available in the CDNT7 area in 2024 due to the shortage of staff and specialists; to provide a schedule of staff in place and the staff levels required to run the service property; 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 as at 17th May 2024.

Intensive recruitment efforts are ongoing between the Children's Disability and the Recruitment Department in Community Healthcare West (CHW) to fill the substantial and persisting vacancies in all Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs), including in CDNT 7. Every avenue is being utilized to fill approved and derogated posts (local and national recruitment campaigns, agency staff, overseas recruitment programmes) due to the critical clinical need and significant impact vacancies have on service delivery for both service users and staff.

As a result of the ongoing recruitment efforts, I am delighted to advise that 5.5 WTEs for clinical posts have been accepted and these staff will be joining the service in the coming months. A further number of posts have received derogation last week to proceed to recruitment and are due to be offered out. It is expected that a number of these remaining vacancies will be accepted by candidates on existing panels. Local recruitment campaigns are ongoing for other vacancies that do not have panels in place.

Discipline	Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)			
	Allocated	In Post (Incl. agency /temporary staff)	Vacant	Posts Accepted
Physiotherapy	4.8	4.8	0	
Speech & Language Therapy	7.5	3	4.5	2.5
Occupational Therapy	6.3	4.3	2	2.0

Psychology	5.4	3.9	1.5	1.0
Social Work	1.8	1.8	0	
Nursing/ Preschool Liaison	1.81	0.81	1	
Behaviour Support	1	0.4	0.6	
CDNM	1	1	0	
Dietitian	0.5	0	0.5	
Clerical	3	3	0	
Total	33.11	23.01 (incl 4.4 WTE agency or temp. staff)	10.1	5.5

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

Yours sincerely



Children's Disability Manager
Community Healthcare West