



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

28th May 2024

Deputy Patrick Costello,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: patrick.costello@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Patrick Costello,

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

PQ: 22535/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the total number of clients engaged with CDNTs, broken down by area; and the number of such clients who have an individual family support plan.

PQ: 225536/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the policy basis for individual family support plans; the purpose of them within the services provided to families; the role they play in ensuring supports for individuals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 23386/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when the CDNT National Report 2023 will be issued; 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 model of service for all CDNTs is family-centred and based on the needs of the child. This includes universal, targeted and specialised supports and interventions, as appropriate to the individual child and family. It is based on the objectives of empowering and supporting parents and others who are with the child on a daily basis to facilitate the child's developmental needs.



The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for over 46,000 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

Please see the table below which provides end of March 2024 data on the number of children on the CDNT caseload as reported by the Business Information Unit

CHO	No of children on CDNT case load
CHO 1	9123
CHO 2	4153
CHO 3	5548
CHO 4	6635
CHO 5	2693
CHO 6	2612
CHO 7	4764
CHO 8	7048
CHO 9	3853
Total	46, 429

With regard to the number of clients who have an individual family support plan, the Business Information Unit report at the end of March 2024 indicates that 21,261 children on the CDNT caseload have a current Individual Family Support Plan.

With regard to the policy basis for individual family support plans; their purpose and role please see the attached *Policy Framework for service delivery of Childrens Disability Network Teams (Revised May 2022)*.

Family Centred Practice ensures that supports provided are determined from family priorities. It requires that there is family involvement in the identification and measurement of achievements. It recognises that each family has its own role, values, structures, beliefs and coping styles. It is important to appropriately assess the varieties of stressors that can adversely affect family patterns of interaction and utilise that information to strengthen families. This may require the identification of social supports, resource supports, information and services.

For further information also- see report:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/family-centred-practice/>

In addition, see attached *National Guidance for Children's Disability Network Teams on Individual Family Support Plans June 2023*,

An IFSP is a plan made by the child (as appropriate to their age), their family and the CDNT in partnership. The plan brings together the child's and family's needs, priorities and desired outcomes with the team's knowledge and expertise, in order to agree what they will focus on next. Everyone then knows who is doing what, where and when.

An Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) is the cornerstone of family centred practice.

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People, which was approved by the HSE Board and launched by the Government in October 2023, contains a robust suite of CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, the majority of which are now in train.

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.

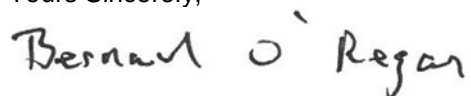


Based on the CDNT Staffing Census (Oct 2022), there are over 700 vacant whole time equivalent posts in CDNTs. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services. The HSE is operating in a very competitive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

Due to the recent Forsa Industrial Action, work on the CDNT Staffing Census 2023 was delayed. It is expected that this report will be available in due course.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

