



Ref: PQ 35105/24

01<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**Deputy Brid Smith**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

**PQ 35105/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify when non-medical job opportunities at the new Children's Hospital will be advertised so that local people can apply; will there be a reserve of positions for local people and will he indicate when and where the positions will be advertised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

### **Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) recognises the significant economic and social benefits that can be gained for neighbouring communities with the location of the new children's hospital in Dublin 8. CHI has been key partner in the Community Benefit Oversight Group for the new children's hospital since its establishment in 2015 with the decision to locate the hospital in Dublin 8.

The Community Benefit Oversight Group is a partnership of CHI, the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, St James Hospital, Dublin City Council, City of Dublin Education & Training Board, HSE, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, along with local development partnership companies and representative community organisations. One of its main aims is to maximise local employment and education opportunities arising from the new children's hospital both in its construction and where possible in its operations. As a direct result of the inclusion of a community benefit clause in the construction contract over 12,210 person weeks of employment on the site has been delivered by "new entrant beneficiaries" i.e. people who were previously unemployed, early school leavers or in precarious employment with all vacancies advertised through a local recruitment brokerage system comprising of local employment community-based organisations and Intreo.

Whilst developing the community benefit clause it became clear that EU laws preclude the reservation of jobs for local people as it is perceived to contravene the principle of free



movement of labour (Regulation (EU) No 492/2011). The Community Benefit Oversight Committee is presently in the process of developing a transition strategy whereby the aims and achievements of a similar social value approach will continue into CHI, forming part of CHI's diversity, inclusion and community engagement strategy currently being developed. An objective this, without contravening the principle of open recruitment, will be to ensure that local people are encouraged to apply for suitable vacancies and that local education and employment advisors understand CHI's employment needs and recruitment systems.

Extant examples of CHI's commitment to the value of community benefit have led to the recent inclusion of a social value clause in a small service contract leading to the creation of an entry level job successfully filled by a previously unemployed candidate. A larger development has been the Memorandum of Understanding with Inchicore Further Education College in Dublin 8 which offers clinical placements for students undertaking Healthcare Assistant and Pre-Nursing students which is mandatory for their course qualifications and in the hope that these students may take up positions with CHI. So far 60 students from Inchicore have undertaken placements at CHI with a similar long-standing relationship in place with Liberties Further Education College, Dublin 8 with many Healthcare Assistants currently employed in CHI coming through this route. It is anticipated that further expansion of this arrangement could be through local colleges which offer other suitable career options such as medical or office administration.

Yours sincerely,

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Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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**Our Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

**CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN):** 20202295 **Revenue Charitable Status CHY:** 22235

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