



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Meabhairshláinte,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Campas Gnó Shoird, Bóthar Chaile Anraí,
Sord, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, K67 D8H0.

17th June 2019

☎: 01 8131889 ✉: mh.dncc@hse.ie

Ms. Denise Mitchell, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Head of Service Mental Health,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

PQ 21214/19 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a situation at a centre (details supplied) in which there is a vacancy for a speech and language therapist since January 2019 and that children are unable to avail of speech and language and occupational therapy due to the staff shortages; if positions will be filled as soon as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. **DETAILS: Darndale Health Centre**

Dear Deputy Mitchell,

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 the following outlines the position.

The Darndale Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) team is a multi-disciplinary team led by a Consultant Psychiatrist. This team provides assessment and treatment of moderate to severe mental health presentations in young people, in line with the nationally prescribed referral criteria for CAMHS.

We have significant challenges with recruitment and retention of a highly skilled and qualified clinical workforce, particularly in high demand areas and clinical specialities. Currently on the Darndale CAMHS Team, a Speech and Language Therapist post is vacant due to maternity leave and an Occupational Therapy post is vacant due to resignation. I can assure you that the service has made every effort to recruit staff to these posts and has also endeavoured to fill these frontline vacancies with interim agency employments. Concerted efforts in this regard have been made; however, candidates who were successful at interview ultimately did not accept the offers.

The filling of these crucial frontline posts remains a high priority and it is hoped to have both vacancies filled in the coming weeks. In the interim, our Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy Managers are devising contingency plans for provision of service from within the resources available.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Angela Walsh
Head of Mental Health
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County

Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service