



13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Mr. Jack Chambers, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.  
Email: [jack.chambers@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jack.chambers@oireachtas.ie)

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

**23935 Re PQ ref 43474/19**

***“To ask the Minister for Health if the school age team for the Dublin 15 area is without an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker or access to psychiatry: if so, the steps being taken to address the shortages: and if he will make a statement on the matter.”***

Dear Deputy

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 of Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

CHO Dublin North City and County Social Care acknowledges the challenges currently experienced in the recruitment of an Occupational therapist, Physiotherapist, Social Worker and Psychology.

Discipline	Current Status	Recruitment Status
Speech and Language Therapy	No Vacancy	-
Occupational Therapy	2.0 WTE vacant	In process of recruitment
Physiotherapy	1.0 WTE vacant	In process of recruitment
Social Work	1.0 WTE vacant	Recruitment process in January 2019 was unsuccessful. Recruitment in process again
Psychology	0.5 WTE vacant	Recruitment process in October 2019 was unsuccessful.

There is no dedicated Consultant Psychiatrist for the School Age Team for the Dublin 15 area. If deemed clinically appropriate, referrals to a Consultant Psychiatrist can be made to the Child Adolescent and Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has temporary employment controls in place which has caused delays to the recruitment process. The purpose of these controls is to ensure that the HSE is demonstrating that it is operating within the available resources provided to it by the Department of Health. Appointments will be made in due course in accordance with the recruitment control measures in place.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service - Social Care