



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
- Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Ascaill na gCrann Teil  
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara  
W91KDC2

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Health Service Executive  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow  
- Community Healthcare  
Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue  
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
W91KDC2

6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin**  
**Dail Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ 43933/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapists employed in the south Kildare NDT team; if additional personnel will be employed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Fiona O'Loughlin

**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 for Health for response.

There are 6 wte (whole time equivalent) permanent Occupational Therapy posts and 1 wte temporary post on the South Kildare NDT; 2 of these posts are vacant due to maternity leave; a third post is due to commence maternity leave in February 2020. They are supporting an active caseload of 560 children.

Increased demands for children's services far outweigh the current resources available to Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow. There are lengthy waiting lists across Disability Services.

100 new therapy posts for Disability Services were announced within the National Service Plan for 2019. Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare was allocated 13 of the 100 posts allocated nationally. The posts will be used to set up Teams to address the Assessment of Need (Disability Act 2005) waiting times across this Community Healthcare area. The focus will then be transferred to the waiting lists for intervention.

The recruitment process has commenced with a view to filling the posts as soon as possible.

- 7 (4 Occupational Therapy and 3 Speech and Language) of the allocated 13 posts have been offered and accepted and are awaiting start dates
- 4 posts have been allocated for Psychology and are in the process of being offered to the existing national panel

- 2 posts will see the development of a much needed Dietetics service for Children with a Disability. These posts do not have existing panels and a recruitment process is underway.

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow will continue to highlight the resources required in Disability Services in order to deal with the increased demands for the area.

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

**Yours sincerely**



**Carol Cuffe**  
Head of Social Care  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare