



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Disabilities
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2
Email: cho7.pqreps@hse.ie Tel: (045) 882 597

20 November 2020

Pádraig O'Sullivan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 32881/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Kildare that have been impacted by the redeployment of disability clinicians to address the assessment of need backlog.”

-Pádraig O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE identified the need to address the backlog of Assessment of Needs as a priority in 2020 to support children on these waiting lists to access the intervention they require.

Staff redeployed to deal with AON backlog:

	South Kildare	Mid Kildare	North Kildare
SLT/SLT Senior	1WTE	1WTE	1WTE
OT/OT Senior	1WTE	1WTE	1WTE
SLT Manager	.6WTE		
Psychologist	.4WTE		.4WTE

Current situation with backfilling of posts.

The Head of Service- Disabilities in CHO7 fully appreciates the impact that the redeployment of any staff has on intervention services for children and their families and has approved funding to backfill for the posts that have been redeployed into the statutory Assessment of Need process on an interim basis.

The recruitment process to backfill the positions are currently taking place;

- Kildare South has been successful in backfilling the .6 SLT and .4 Snr Psychologist.
- North Kildare are currently interviewing for potential replacements.
- Mid Kildare have temporary cover for Senior SLT post but this has left the staff grade level SLT vacant. The SNR OT post has yet to be filled. Work to find replacements continue.

As a result of the redeployment, approximately 75-80 children are not accessing SLT support, 75-80 children are not accessing OT support and 60 children are not accessing psychology supports as part of interdisciplinary team, as a result of the redeployments to AON.

Capacity to take children off the waiting lists has been decreased by approx. 30% and internal waitlists for diagnostic assessments has increased to 24 months.

Work continues to work through the AON backlog as quickly as possible and every effort is being made to get staff back to their roles with in the disability network teams as soon as possible.

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Jacob

Head of Service for Disabilities,

Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare