



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

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae Bhaile Átha
Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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General Manager Primary Care,
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Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Mr. Paul McAuliffe, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

7th April 2021

PQ 10990/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of extra posts, taking into account temporary vacancies and maternity leave, that would be needed in Ballymun, Dublin 11 to eliminate the waiting lists for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and psychology; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Paul McAuliffe

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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.

It would not be possible to predict the exact number of extra posts needed to eliminate waiting lists across all the services in Ballymun. Unfortunately, having extra staff in post is not the only factor which would eliminate waiting lists. There are other factors such as budget constraints, availability of suitable accommodation and having a qualified pool of staff to train and recruit from. Another factor is unforeseen problems such as the impact of a global pandemic across all service levels and ultimately waiting lists.

As part of national healthcare reforms being implemented under the Sláintecare cross-party agreement, the Enhanced Community Care Reform Programme is currently underway across Community Healthcare Organisation - Dublin North City and County. The investment in an Enhanced Community Care Model will be delivered on a phased basis with a view to national coverage being achieved within a 2-3-year period. As part of the programme the Ballymun Area Network was chosen as the Learning Site for the introduction of the Community Healthcare Network model of care. The principles underpinning this model of working is to support greater integration across services, ensuring timely access to quality services and to provide person centered care locally to those living within their community. An additional 191 posts have been approved for Community Healthcare Network for CHO DNCC for 2021.

As part of the Community Healthcare Network model, five additional clinical posts have been approved for the Ballymun Area Network and are currently being recruited. This should have a positive impact on waiting lists.

CHO DNCC is committed to improving access to services and this has been identified as a priority by the HSE Board. This can only be done by strengthening public capacity, utilising private capacity where appropriate and adopting new ways of working via digital platforms, etc.

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,

Caroline Lawson
A/General Manager
Primary Care