



**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas**

Campas Gnó Shoird,
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord,
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Éircód K67 X3Y9

**Head of Service
Disability Services DNCC**

Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin
K67 X3Y9

t 01 8131 820
e Headofservicedisability.dncc@hse.ie

11th May 2022

Mr Duncan Smith, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Email: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

PQ 20427/22

'To ask the Minister for Health if a review has taken place of the progressive disability programme for the CHO9 north Dublin area; the gaps in the service that have been identified; his plans to fill those gaps; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

PQ 20429/22

'To ask the Minister for Health the number of children that are under the progressive disability programme in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) were established in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) on 20th September 2021 as part of the Progressing Disability Services (PDS) programme. It is a very significant change programme with a new model of service which focuses on outcomes for children and families rather than inputs.

The Children's Disability Network Team Governance Group provides oversight of the programme and maintains ongoing review of performance and activity.

Based on our latest figures from March 2022 there are currently 5,747 children on the CDNTs active case and waiting lists in CHO DNCC.

CHO DNCC Disability Services have significant concerns regarding access to services for some CDNTs. We are continually exploring all options available to us to address this and to improve the access to services for children and their families. We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO. This demand for services is caused by a number of factors, including but not limited to significant population growth coupled with some vulnerable population groups and areas of deprivation.

Disability Services is a highly regulated sector, with services required to comply with legislative obligations as well as numerous policy documents which require implementation. CDNTs are mandated to comply with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005 and this must be their priority when providing services.

Our CDNTs are experiencing significant challenges in terms of recruitment and retention of staff at all grades. The Children's Disability Network Team Governance Group is exploring if there are any alternative staff grades or qualifications which may assist staff in CDNTs whilst they navigate the significant change within service

delivery. The level of staff vacancies is not easily resolved as there are essentially more posts for Allied Health Professionals than qualified staff available nationally. We have also increased the level of administrative support to assist each team.

I assure you that we are continuing to work towards improved access to services with a focus on rolling out universal and targeted care pathways for children and families.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability