



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
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**Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

Ref: PQ 7318/22

Re: *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the children's disability network teams 4, 5 and 6 in CHO7 including vacant posts, locations and treatment offered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

- Mark Ward TD

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above matter. I have requested for the Managers of the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in 4, 5 and 6 –to examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

In line with the National Project Progressing Disabilities for Children & Young People (PDS), Children's Disability Network Teams reconfigured on the 20th of September. Since reconfiguration recruitment has been a top priority of the CDNM and Lead Agency. The prevailing recruitment situation across clinical disciplines is highly challenging due to National shortages in these therapists. We have strived to fill the vacant posts since reconfiguration and are committed to filling these vacancies as soon as possible.

Response from CRC CDNT 4:

Vacant posts unfilled following the recruitment process in CH07 are as follows:

- Physiotherapy
 - 2 senior grades
- Occupational Therapy
 - 1 senior grade (& one pending)
 - 1 basic grade
- Speech & Language Therapy
 - 1 senior grade (long term sick leave)
- Social work
 - 1 senior grade
- Psychology
 - 1 basic grade

Vacant posts as a result of current maternity leave:

- Speech & Language Therapy 1 senior grade

There are also a number of staff who have agreed parental leave days.

The location of this team is based in CRC Clondalkin, Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

The CRC continues to review and explore all recruitment approaches nationally and internationally in the effort to fill the posts.

The CRC is working closely with the HSE to explore the recruitment challenges however there are a number of factors affecting recruitment namely; shortage of skills nationally, current opportunities in primary care and other areas of the health services, perceived challenged with PDS amongst the professionals.

Response from Stewarts Care CDNT 5:

Our current allocation and vacancies are outlined below:

- 13.6 WTE in Post. Full Allocation: 24.6
- WTE Currently in Recruitment:
 - 2x Physiotherapy: 1x Senior, 1xStaff Grade – Campaign open for both positions.
 - 2x Basic Grade Occupational Therapy - Campaign Open for both positions
 - 3x Psychology: 1x Senior – At compliance stage; 1 Senior in recruitment; 1x Staff Grade in recruitment
 - 2x Social Work: 1x Senior – At compliance, 1xSenior in recruitment
- 2 WTE Maternity leave Posts:
 - 2x Maternity leave – 1x Senior Physiotherapist & 1x Staff Grade Social Worker.

With respect to locations of treatments, clinical sessions are offered on site in Rossecourt Resource Centre in our clinical space here. They are offered at other locations e.g. home, school or other clinical settings such as hospitals or specialised centres in line with the service user's needs depending on the most appropriate location from both a clinical perspective, in line with a family centred model of care with due consideration given to health economics. Virtual sessions in some instances are also offered e.g. for some groups and virtual workshops and are facilitated at parental request where possible.

With respect to treatment offered, this is in accordance with the National Model for Progressing Disabilities Services in a Family Centred Model of Care via an Interdisciplinary approach. This may include interventions from any or all elements of the three tiers of intervention, including universal, targeted and direct supports. This will be dependent on the service user's needs, goals identified at the IFSP and offered in accordance to our available resources and skills within the team.

Response from Stewarts Care CDNT 6:

Our current team status for CDNT6 is as follows:

- Allocation: 16.4 WTE
- Currently in Post: 13.4 WTE
- WTE Currently in Recruitment:
 - 1x Staff Grade Physiotherapist – Campaign open for position.
 - 1x Basic Grade Speech and Language Therapist – Interviews for post scheduled 23/02/2022
- 1 WTE Maternity leave Posts:
 - 1x Basic Grade Speech and Language Therapist

Location:

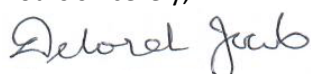
The Team are based in Palmerstown on the Stewarts Care campus off Mill Lane. We are in a newly refurbished building specifically for the use of CDNT6, with clinical spaces, family room, training area, offices etc. As per the Family Centred Model of service we provide, we see the child where their service needs are best met, this is usually agreed between the parents and clinicians or in the case of an older child between the child and clinicians. This could be in our clinic, home or in school. We are a community based service rather than a hospital or clinic based service. Virtual sessions in some instances are also offered e.g. for some groups.

Treatment offered:

In accordance with the National Model for Progressing Disabilities Services all Children's Disability Network Teams are using a Family Centred Model of Service with an interdisciplinary approach. Parents are invited into an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) meeting. At this meeting their child's individual needs and goals are identified and an interdisciplinary team approach is used to address these goals. The child's goals are addressed through targeted groups, universal strategies and individual sessions as deemed appropriate.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Jacob
Head of Service, Disability Services
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.