

25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Mr Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 8095/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an explanation for the reason the diagnostic team within the Children’s Disability Network team 12 in Cork is not yet in operation; if a psychologist has been hired for team 12; when it is expected that this diagnostic team will be in operation and assessments can begin; and if he will make a statement on the matter”**

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Children’s Disability Network Team 12 (CDNT) is in operation since April 2021 and provides services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child’s and family’s own priorities. Every child with complex needs arising from a disability will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

The CDNT work collaboratively with the child and family to identify the needs and priorities of the child and family, plan goals and develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). This is a written plan that focuses on the strengths and needs of the child and family, incorporating their priorities and concerns. Children and their families have access to the full range of services and supports of the CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and direct supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to consultation and diagnostic assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child’s natural environments - their home, school and community.

Currently, there are 772 children assigned to the West Central Cork Children’s Disability Network Team. The team are currently working through the caseload to commence an initial pathway for each child.

In relation to psychology posts; the CDNT has been allocated a total of 3.80 WTE, of which 2.60WTE are in post, 0.80 WTE have been offered and 0.40 WTE undergoing the recruitment process. Resources across the team are prioritised based on the significant and complex needs of the children and families; access to education, time sensitive assessments and interventions and are inclusive of assessments and interventions following the model of service. The HSE has established a temporary ASD waitlist initiative to support the teams

which is supporting the ASD diagnostic waitlist on CDNT 12.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms. Patricia O'Neill,  
A/Head of Disability Services,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

