



21st July 2022

Mr. Paul Kehoe TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 38592/22

To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are in place to decrease the waiting times, improve communications and increase staff for children needing the vital supports of the children's disability network team in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Under Progressing Disability Services children with non-complex needs will be offered services through Primary Care and children with complex needs will be offered services through the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). Services and supports provided are based on children's needs rather than diagnosis and regardless of where they live or attend school.

In the Wexford area, Children who were identified as having complex needs were transferred to the four Children's Disability Network Teams (New Ross, Gorey, Enniscorthy and Wexford based on their addresses).

As with other areas all disability services within South East Community Healthcare are experiencing significant recruitment challenges to Children's Disability Network Teams. Vacant posts have been advertised and in some cases re-advertised however we have been unsuccessful in filling a number of vacancies from these campaigns. In addition SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continue to prioritise recruitment campaigns.

SECH CHO 5 has secured funding for 26 new posts across the CDNTs in 2022. The HSE are actively recruiting to fill these posts along with trying to fill current vacancies which will enable teams to increase the provision of assessment and intervention.

The HSE/SECH and National Disabilities are reviewing all options to address the current vacancies as quickly as possible.

We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO and the impact of delays in accessing services has on the children and their families. In the meantime, the Children's Disability Network Managers are also exploring different ways to offer support to children and families currently waiting to access services. This includes developing webinars, group based workshops, information sessions and the development of a repository of resources for children and their families to promote and enable wellbeing at home.



I assure you, my team and I will continue 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. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Ennis', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ms. Anne Ennis
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare