



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

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,  
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

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**2 August 2022**

**Catherine Murphy TD**  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ 40563/22**

**Re:** *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent vacancies currently being actively recruited to fill posts at the Kildare north children's disability network team; and the number of these vacancies that are new positions.”*

**- Catherine Murphy TD**

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**Dear Deputy Murphy**

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I have requested the Children's Disability Network Manager for North Kildare to examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The North Kildare CDNT support children with complex needs who live in the areas of Leixlip, Maynooth, Celbridge, Kilcock and Derrinturn. The team has 28.15 wte positions on the team with 25.5 wte of these posts being clinical posts. There are currently 4.4 wte posts vacant on the team:

- 1 wte staff grade psychology - maternity leave started May 2022
- 1 wte staff grade psychology – expression of interest sent to panel
- 0.8 wte senior psychologist – post accepted
- 1 wte senior occupational therapist – post accepted start date agreed 2/8/2022
- 0.6 wte senior dietician – interviews took place 19/7/2022 post will be offered to candidate ranked highest in order of merit on the panel.

As an established CDNT the North Kildare has been and continues to be an attractive team to work on and filling permanent posts has been a strength of the team. There are an additional 4 wte staff due to go on maternity leave between August and October 2022, filling of temporary posts within the current shortfall of therapists will be challenging.

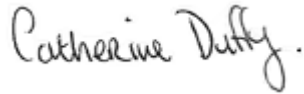
The number of referrals to the service continues to increase as expected in a region of population growth and this is monitored on an ongoing basis. The current wait times for the team is 14 months, due to the increased referral rates and upcoming maternity leave vacancies the wait times will increase.

The team review how they operate to maximise the number of children that can be supported on an ongoing basis.

I hope this answers your query, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Duffy." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Jacob

**Head of Service, Disability Services**

**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.**