



17th June 2022

Mr. Brendan Howlin TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29373/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 236 of 11 May 2022, in relation to the filling of vacant occupational therapist posts and speech and language therapist posts in the four Children's Disability Network Teams in County Wexford, if he has instructed the HSE to advertise internationally for these posts and in the interim the specific plans he has to provide urgently needed services to the children and families on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Howlin,

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 the new 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. Children with complex needs can access services from a Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) which are now in place across the South East and support children aged from birth to 18 years of age. These Children's Disability Networks (CDN) are aligned to the Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs). Services and supports provided are based on need rather than diagnosis and regardless of where they live or attend school. This aligns with the objectives of Slaintecare and the Programme for Government.

As with other areas, Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges.

I can confirm that currently, following the completion of a Senior Occupational Therapy recruitment campaign, and the subsequent panel of suitable applicants, vacancies across the Wexford CDNTs as well as other (Care Groups across SECH) have been expressed out to panel members. We are currently awaiting the results and uptake likelihood from the SECH Recruitment Team in the coming weeks.

I can also confirm that a Senior Speech & Language Therapist recruitment campaign is underway in SECH at the moment the closing date for receipt of applications was 15th June 2022. We await the conclusion of this campaign, the next stages include shortlisting of applications and interviews.



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 cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Ennis', written in black ink on a light-colored background.

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