



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service,
Mid-West Disability Services
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare,
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21st March 2022

**Deputy Michael McNamara,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

Email: Michael.McNamara@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ/13142/22

Requesting information on the additional staffing resources that are being provided to the Clare Children's Disability Network Team for the purpose of reducing waiting lists in County Clare and the measures that will be taken to further improve service delivery in County Clare.

Dear Deputy McNamara

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representations which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response, further to my response to PQ/6191/22. I have re-examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE is aware that there is a significant staffing resource challenge across all teams within the Midwest as caseloads have risen significantly (18% year on year) over the past 10 years. The Midwest Community Healthcare is continuously highlighting this need with submissions for additional resources to the national office.

Disabilities services in the Mid West regularly reviews resources and allocates any available additional funding to priority areas. For example, considerable additional resources have been made available to the Clare Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) by the HSE in the Mid-West to assist with the ASD assessment waiting list. The Clare CDNT recently undertook a handwriting waiting list initiative and funding was made available to resource this service.

Clare CDNT, in partnership with HR, are making every effort with recruitment of staff for the seven posts that are currently vacant. Five more vacancies are anticipated presently. In the interim, they are arranging agency cover or the filling of these posts on a temporary basis, where possible. All maternity leave backfill cover requests have been approved for Clare CDNT by the HSE in 2020 and 2021.

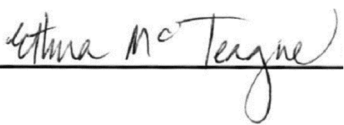
Clare CDNT will be considered, along with all Mid-West CDNT's, for any future posts allocated to the Mid West under Progressing Disabilities Services.

In line with national policy, Clare CDNT are moving to a bio-psychosocial model to further improve service delivery. Through family-centred practice by an interdisciplinary team, this model recognises that all children and their families are unique. The services offered will be based on the

child's individual needs and family priorities as identified in their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The bio-psycho-social model is a broad view that recognises the involvement of various factors (e.g. biological, psychological or social) in a child's strengths and challenges. Family centred practice ensures that supports provided are determined from the family's own priorities, taking into account the factors relevant to each child. It recognises that each family has its own role, values, structures, beliefs and coping strategies and it aims to strengthen families own abilities in dealing with their child's challenges. This approach is supported by national and international best practice.

I trust this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catha McTeague". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

General Manager, Disability Services