

5th April, 2022

Mr, Thomas Gould TD.
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 13811/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff currently employed in each of the children's disability network teams by role in County Cork.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. As part of the HSE National Service Plan 2021, a total of 100 development posts were allocated for Progressing Disability Services (PDS) and its implementation. Under Phase 1 and Phase 2 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) received 7.5 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts with an additionality of 5.8 posts under Minister Rabbittes Special School allocation.

Please see table below which provides details of the wte on each team.

CDNT	Discipline	Unfilled wte/ posts
Northwest Cork	CDNM	1.00
	Physiotherapist	3.00
	Occupational Therapist	3.40
	Speech & Language Therapist	5.55
	Psychologist	3.00
	Social Worker	2.30
	Nursing	0.90
	Family Support	2.98
	Administration	<u>0.80</u>
	TOTAL WTE	22.93
WTE unfilled Total	5.85	
		- 1.92 Speech & Language Therapist
		- 0.20 Play Therapist
		- 0.73 Care Assistant
		- 1.7 Social Worker
		- 10.10 Occupational Therapist
		- 0.20 Physiotherapist

Northeast Cork	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.00 Occupational Therapist 1.80 Speech & Language Therapist 2.00 Psychologist 1.86 Social Worker 1.00 Nursing 1.00 Family Support 1.29 Administration <u>1.00</u> TOTAL WTE 12.95 WTE unfilled Total 4.00	- 1.00 Basic Grade Psychologist - 1.00 Basic Grade Speech & Language Therapist - 1.00 Basic Grade Occupational Therapist - 1.00 Basic Grade Physiotherapist
East Central Cork	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.00 Occupational Therapist 2.00 Speech & Language Therapist 2.83 Psychologist 2.83 Social Worker 0.83 Nursing 1.00 Family Support 0.80 Administration <u>1.30</u> TOTAL WTE 14.59 WTE unfilled Total 3.00	- 2.00 Basic Grade Speech & Language Therapist - 1.00 Senior Physiotherapist
East Cork City	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.00 Occupational Therapist 4.00 Speech & Language Therapist 4.52 Psychologist 2.50 Social Worker 2.00 Nursing 1.20 Family Support 1.70 Administration <u>0.97</u> TOTAL WTE 19.89 WTE unfilled Total 1.50	- 1.50 Physiotherapist
Central Cork	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.00 Occupational Therapist 3.00 Speech & Language Therapist 4.80 Psychologist 2.40 Social Worker 1.00 Nursing 0.50 Family Support 0.80 Administration <u>1.00</u> TOTAL WTE 16.50 WTE unfilled Total 3.90	- 1.0 Staff Grade Psychologist - 0.40 Senior Psychologist - 1.00 Speech & Language Therapist - 1.00 Senior Occupational Therapist - 0.50 Administration



North Cork City & Blarney	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.50 Occupational Therapist 3.00 Speech & Language Therapist 3.00 Psychologist 3.00 Social Worker 0.80 Nursing 0.90 Family Support 0.67 Other Support 0.50 Administration <u>0.50</u> TOTAL WTE 14.87 WTE unfilled Total 4.67	- 0.50 Senior Physiotherapist - 0.50 Occupational Therapist - 2.00 Psychologist - 0.67 Family Support Worker
West Cork	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 4.10 Occupational Therapist 3.88 Speech & Language Therapist 5.90 Psychologist 3.81 Social Worker 0.50 Nursing 2.30 Administration <u>1.00</u> TOTAL WTE 21.49 WTE unfilled Total 0.02	- 0.02 Psychologist
South East Cork City	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 1.70 Occupational Therapist 3.00 Speech & Language Therapist 5.00 Psychologist 2.60 Social Worker 1.00 Nursing 0.50 Family Support 1.23 Other Support 1.00 Administration <u>1.00</u> TOTAL WTE 20.03 WTE unfilled Total 4.50	-1.00 Basic Grade Speech & Language Therapist -1.00 Senior Occupational Therapist - 1.00 Basic Grade Psychologist - 1.00 Clinical Nurse Manager - 0.50 Administration
West Central Cork	CDNM 1.00 Physiotherapist 2.40 Occupational Therapist 5.54 Speech & Language Therapist 5.30 Psychologist 3.80 Social Worker 2.00 Nursing 0.50 Family Support 2.41 Other Support 1.21 Administration <u>0.82</u> TOTAL WTE 25.98 WTE unfilled Total 2.20	- 0.80 Psychologist - 0.40 Psychologist - 0.20 Speech & Language Therapist - 0.80 Basic Grade Occupational Therapist



Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon	CDNM	1.00	- 1.00
	Physiotherapist	2.48	Physiotherapist
	Occupational Therapist	4.62	- 2.00 Psychologist
	Speech & Language Therapist	5.30	- 1.00 Senior
	Psychologist	2.30	Occupational
	Social Worker	1.95	Therapist
	Nursing	0.90	- 1.00 Basic Grade
	Family Support	2.17	Occupational
	Other Support	1.00	Therapist
	Administration	<u>1.56</u>	- 0.50 Senior Speech
	TOTAL WTE	25.28	& Language
	WTE unfilled Total	6.00	Therapist
			- 0.50
			Administration
			-
South Cork City	CDNM	1.00	- 0.50 Basic Grade
	Physiotherapist	1.50	Physiotherapist
	Occupational Therapist	2.50	- 0.50 Senior
	Speech & Language Therapist	3.00	Physiotherapist
	Psychologist	2.50	- 0.50 Basic Grade
	Social Worker	1.00	Psychologist
	Nursing	0.46	- 0.20 Basic Grade
	Family Support	0.96	Speech & Language
	Other Support	0.80	Therapist
	Administration	<u>0.75</u>	- 0.85 Basic Grade
	TOTAL WTE	14.47	Occupational
	WTE unfilled Total	3.30	Therapist
			- 0.75
			Administration

There are a number of vacancies due to difficulty with recruitment and statutory leave. There are particular deficits in Psychology, Social Work, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. There is also no Dietetic services for the teams to access. Backfilling of posts is challenging in the current environment due to lack of availability of appropriately qualified staff and demand for same across the health service. However the Lead Agencies responsible for the management of the teams are prioritising the recruitment of such posts. The teams operate according to a suite of national and regional standard operating policies, procedures and guidelines. There are prioritisation systems and caseload management systems including assessment and intervention pathways in place.

The demand for assessment and intervention outweighs the resource capacity of the teams, this means that in practice children with the highest priority of need can access services and other children with a lower priority of need are placed on the appropriate waitlists. The caseload management systems are reviewed and updated regularly by the team managers. CKCH Disability Services have put in place additional waitlist initiatives with external agencies to support caseload management, using time related savings, including preliminary team assessments under the AON process and ASD assessments.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.



Yours sincerely,



**Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

