



12th April 2022

Mr. Johnny Mythen
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 16449/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies by job title in the children's disability network teams in CHO5; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) were established in South East Community Healthcare (CHO5) on the 27th September 2021 and as such CHO 5 is in the early stages of the reconfiguration process. It is a very significant change programme with a new service model which focuses on outcomes for children and families. An inter-disciplinary team will work closely together with the child and family to identify the child's needs and family's own priorities and agree a plan (Individual Family Service Plan - IFSP) to support children and parents to reach goals identified on the plan. The focus of this new programme is not on the number of therapy sessions received i.e. speech and language or occupational therapy, but on the goals that children and families may meaningfully aim to achieve and steps they may take together with the Children's Disability Network Team.

The total number of vacancies in the Children's Disability Network Teams in South East Community Healthcare are as follows:

Discipline	Current Vacancies (WTE)
Senior Psychologist	2
Senior Speech and Language Therapist	2
Senior Occupational Therapist	3
Senior Dietician	4.5
Senior Physiotherapist	4.8
Staff grade Psychologist	7.8
Staff grade Occupational Therapist	10
Staff grade Speech and Language Therapist	7
Staff grade Physiotherapist	4.8
Social Worker	2.5
Nurse	3.1
Grade III admin	0.6



The above figures include the following vacancies which have been successfully recruited and have agreed start dates:

- 2 Senior Psychology posts (May 4th and June 6th 2022)
- 1 Staff Grade Physiotherapist (May 23rd 2022)
- 1 Senior Physiotherapist (August 22nd 2022)
- 1 Staff grade Occupational Therapist (June 8th 2022)

I can confirm that SECH CHO5 has received additional posts for Children's Disability Services to help populate the CDNTS and implement the model under Progressing Disability Services. As well as approving 7 new posts across SECH in 2021 the HSE has approved 26 new posts for SECH in 2022. The HSE are developing a plan for these additional posts and are actively seeking to fill current vacancies which will enable teams to increase the provision of assessment and intervention and capacity to implement the model of service delivery under Progressing Disability services. .

A campaign for Senior Occupational Therapists has been launched in SECH. SECH will be running a campaign for Senior Physiotherapy and Senior Speech and Language Therapy and plan to advertise these campaigns in April. National recruitment have recently held interviews to establish a Social Work panel. A recruitment campaign for nursing is also being launched imminently at National level. A national panel is in place for Senior Dieticians and these posts are currently being offered out. Where possible vacant posts are being filled by Agency, whilst awaiting permanent recruitment of these posts.

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

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,

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