



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

17th May 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 23336/22

To ask the Minister for Health the staffing composition of each children's disability network team and the number of vacancies in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the available skill mix. Hence, some CDNTs may include disciplines such as nurses, family support workers or early educators.

Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Since 2019, more than 475 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. These posts have been assigned based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area.

Included in the 475 posts referenced above, the NSP 2022 provides for 190 therapy posts at a cost of €8.2m in 2022, increasing to €14.4m in 2023. This is a further substantial increase in the provision of funding in support of the development of the Children's Disability Network Teams, building on the 185 posts provided for in 2021.

The additional posts provided for under the National Service Plans for 2021 and 2022 are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs.

A CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review was undertaken in 2021. This report has been finalised and issued to the Department of Health. The report has provided valuable information on the number of staff working in the CDNTs by discipline and grade. This information will allow targeted workforce planning by the HSE in consultation with the Children's Disability Network Managers to reinforce the skill mix of their teams to accommodate local population need.

Please see the attached CDNT Census Report 2021.



Most of the disciplines working in CDNTs are similar to those working in other areas of the health services including primary care services, mental health services and acute hospitals. The HSE experiences ongoing challenges recruiting staff across a range of disciplines and grades. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to support the recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services.

Yours sincerely

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations