



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

Head of Service, Disabilities
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6 December 2022

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 56627/22

Re: “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the perception among the families of service users that there is a higher level of sick leave amongst the therapists in CDNT 3 as compared to CDNT 1; if the causes of same have been identified; if this is due to stress, additional workload due to staff shortages or the work environment; and the steps that can be taken to ensure that both CDNTs are fully staffed with required cover to ensure delivery of services.”

-Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I have requested that Manger for the Children’s Disability Network Team St. Columba’s Team 3 examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children’s Disability Network Manager (CDNM) is aware there is sick leave amongst the CDNT 3 team and recognises that there are substantial benefits both to the employee and CDNT 3 services from being at work. Identifying and names the causes of sick leave within this response is not possible; respecting and maintaining the confidentiality of staff during sick leave must be adhered to.

CDNM can assure you that the CDNM and staff assist in the prevention of workplace illness and injuries by implementing HSE health and safety policies and a process of risk assessment where appropriate. The promotion and attention to the Managing Attendance Policy and Procedure is adhered to at all times. All available support services such as Occupational Health, Employee Assistance Programme and the Coaching service are used where appropriate.

It is not within my remit to comment or compare the sick leave of another service i.e. CDNT 1 to CDNT 3.

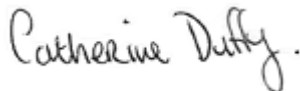
CDNM acknowledges that with the staffing resources available to them, covering for sick leave is challenging. We strive to provide cover where possible and to minimise the negative impact on our children and families. Since reconfiguration recruitment has been a top priority of the CDNM. The prevailing recruitment situation across clinical disciplines is highly challenging due shortage of skills nationally. We have strived to fill the vacant posts since reconfiguration and are committed to filling these vacancies as soon as possible.

We do appreciate the frustrations of the families during this reconfiguration and change to services. We will do our best to keep communication to families a priority and to ensure that services are provided in a timely, safe, and effective manner to the best of our ability to all the children who require our services.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Duffy."

Deborah Jacob

Head of Service, Disability Services

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.