



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,  
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Mr. Darren O'Rourke T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 57386/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current staff vacancies by discipline in child & adult disability services in CHO8 and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

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. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

**Children's Disability Network Teams:**

*Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS)* is a significant change programme for the provision of therapeutic services for children from birth to 18 years of age. It is being rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. PDS requires pooling together all resources, including staff, facilities and equipment, from the different voluntary agencies and the HSE providing specialist children's disability services, in order to set up Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). A CDNT comprises of a team of health and social care professionals who provide a range of different supports in an interdisciplinary way. This means that the professionals on the team work together with the child and family.

There are 12 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in CHO8, please find attached a template outlining the approved WTE, WTE in post and WTE vacancies per CDNT.

The HSE Children's Disability Network Teams are experiencing significant recruitment challenges across many clinical disciplines, which is having an impact on service delivery. National Disabilities and national and local HR are reviewing all options to address the current vacancies as quickly as possible. There are a number of vacancies that have no active National Panels and work is ongoing to ensure that such active panels will be in place. The Head of Service for Disability Services is working with the HR Department on a plan as to how these posts may be filled. CHO8 has been approved to run local campaigns for Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy. The HSE is also currently actively engaged in various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts which will positively impact on waiting times for all disciplines.



**Adult Disability Services:**

Please find attached a template outlining approved WTE, WTE in post and WTE vacancies per area.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation