



Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

Community
Healthcare West
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Oifig an Bhainisteora Ginearálta
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais
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30th November 2022

Noel Grealish TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

PQ 57990/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting services in network 4 of the community disability network teams, broken down by the age of children and the number of years that they are waiting for services; the total cumulative annual hours of service provision to this cohort of children in the children's disability network team 4 Spiddal for the years 2020 to 2021, including the allocated and utilised budget in respect of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Grealish

I refer to PQ 57990/22 /22 uploaded on the PAD System on the 21st November 2022 and due for response on the 5th December 2022 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning “the number of children awaiting services in network 4 of the community disability network teams, broken down by the age of children and the number of years that they are waiting for services; the total cumulative annual hours of service provision to this cohort of children in the children's disability network team 4 Spiddal for the years 2020 to 2021, including the allocated and utilised budget in respect of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter” The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that the reconfiguration process of Children’s Disability Services has been underway in Community Healthcare West since October 2021. The newly formed Children’s Disability Network Team for Galway West (CDNT4) is based in Spiddal. The initial phase of reconfiguration involved the transition of management and therapy staff to their new Teams and Lead Agencies. Reconfiguration of children’s service to one CDNT in Galway West involved the transition of children from 6 existing services and 4 different agencies, Galway Early Interventions Services, Enable Ireland Physical and Sensory School Age Team, Enable Ireland DCD Services, Ability West School-Age Team and the Brothers of Charity School-Age Services and Primary Care Occupational therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy services. The transition process took place from November 2021 to February 2022, with approximately 280 children’s information transferring services.

Children’s Disability Network Teams in the HSE work on paper based systems. The absence of electronic health records, in addition to the reconfiguration processes outlined above, means it is not possible to provide the exact information requested in PQ 57990/22. The National Information Management System for Children’s Disability Services will be delivered to Teams in 2023 and will significantly impact on CDNTs having the capacity to generate value data on service delivery efficiently and inform service planning.

Please see below the latest available data for CDNT4 which are the metrics provided on a monthly basis to the National Disability Children’s and Families Team in Community Operations, HSE.

Metric for October 2022	CDNT 4
No. of staff WTE allocation @ month end i.e. on the last day of the month	18.74
No. of staff WTE actually working @ month end	11.09
No. of staff WTE on maternity leave @ month end	2
Caseload no. @ month end	330
No. of new children referred (incl. transferred from existing disability services) during the month	7
No. of children discharged during the month	1


CDNT4	Open Cases	Allocated Clinicians WTE	Individual Family Service Plans	Actual WTE Clinicians in operation (including Admin & CDNM)	Vacant Clinicians positions WTE (unfilled & mat leave)	% vacancies
	330	18.74	185	11.09	7.8	42%

You will note from the metrics provided, that the challenges of retaining and recruiting staff are significantly impacting CDNT4 currently. We continue to actively recruit, on a daily basis, for therapy staff via the HSE recruitment process and through private recruitment agencies, however, this is particularly challenging due to unprecedented shortages in personnel in the allied health professional sector.

The Galway West Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT4) is committed to building a service for all the children in the service that is responsive to need and supports families.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely



Iolo Eilian
 General Manager
 Disability Services
 Community Healthcare West