



11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 48651/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently awaiting a first appointment with the children's disability network services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.*

Following the reconfiguration of children's disability services to the Children Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in September 2021, between 300 - 400 children transferred to each CDNT as open at that time. Most teams also receive on average between 10 - 15 new referrals per month. The table below outlines the number of children currently awaiting a first appointment with the Children's Disability Network Teams in County Wexford.

CDNT	No. of Children referred and accepted onto the waitlist since reconfiguration	No. of Children assigned open who transferred from Primary Care to the CDNT and are waiting first appointment
Wexford	82 (21 have received intervention)	79
Gorey	62 (9 have received intervention)	39
Enniscorthy	52 (3 have received intervention)	108
New Ross	54 (12 have received intervention)	36

Currently there are significant waiting lists in Childrens Disability Services. SECH CHO 5 secured funding for 26 new posts across the CDNTs in the National Service Plan 2022. The HSE are actively recruiting to fill these posts along with continuing efforts to fill current vacancies which will enable teams to increase the provision of assessment and intervention.

A Senior Speech and Language Therapy regional panel was formed in September 2022. National panel interviews are currently in process for Staff Grade Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists. A Staff Grade Psychology national panel is now in place. I



can confirm that a Senior Physiotherapist commenced in Enniscorthy in October and a Senior Occupational Therapist has accepted a post in Wexford which is at pre-clearance stage.

We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO, and the impact of delays in accessing services on children and families. In the interim, the Children's Disability Network Managers are exploring different ways to offer supports to children and families currently waiting to access services. This includes developing webinars, group based workshops, information sessions and the development of a repository of resources for children and their families to promote and enable wellbeing at home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Ennis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Ms. Anne Ennis**  
**Head of Service, Disability Service**  
**South East Community Healthcare**