



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.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

HSE,
Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co Offaly

www.hse.ie
@hselive
@MLMCommHealth

t 057 9359787
e CHO8@hse.ie

8th November, 2022.

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question - 51413/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff members that are currently employed and working in children's disability network teams in County Laois by role and by team in tabular form; and the number of unfilled posts.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 (CDNT) have been established under the National Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People programme of change since November 2021. The CDNT provides interdisciplinary supports for children and young people aged 0-18 years with complex needs.

There are two (2) CDNTs covering the Laois area. The Spraoi Children's Disability Network Team (Network 12) has been established under this change and supports children with a home address in the areas of Portlaoise, Stradbally, Ballickmoyler, Abbeyleix, Mountrath and Borris in Ossory. The Barrow Children's Disability Network Team (Network 11) provides supports for children who live in Portarlinton, Mountmellick and Edenderry.

All services have been affected by vacancies within the teams, similar to all CDNT's, the Midlands CDNTs have an allocation of therapists that was based on the population and to ensure a skill mix within the teams.

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.



Please find below the summary of current posts and vacancies for the two networks, these vacancies are for both existing posts and new development posts as part of the CDNT's:

	Barrow CDNT 11 Allocation (WTE)	Number currently vacant	Spraioi CDNT 12 Allocation (WTE)	Number currently vacant (WTE)
Occupational Therapist, Senior	3	2	3.5	2
Occupational Therapist, Staff	3	2	3	1
Physiotherapist, Senior	1	1	1	0
Physiotherapist, Staff	1	0	2	1
Psychologist, Senior	1	0	2	1
Psychologist, Staff	2	0	2	1
Speech and Language Therapist, Senior	2.1	1	2.5	1
Speech and Language Therapist, Staff	1	0	4	1
Social Worker	1	1	2	2
Liaison Nurse	1	1	1	1
Behaviour Support	.5	.2	.5	.2
Dietitian	.5	.2	.5	.2
Children's Disability Network Manager	1	0	1	0
Admin	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	19.1	8.4	26	11.4

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

Yours sincerely,

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