



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
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28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy John Lahart,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 52185/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of children's disability network teams in both CHO6 and CHO7; the locations in which each team is based; the numbers of staff, in WTE terms, approved for each team; the numbers currently assigned to each team; the number of vacant positions on each team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

##### **Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)**

In line with the PDS model, resources assigned to children's disability services are allocated to the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs); 91 CDNTs are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

Children and their families will have access to a range of services and supports of the CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Work is ongoing on mapping specialised services and supports, and paediatric supports available as well as an analysis of the service gaps for children with highly complex needs. This will facilitate the HSE to develop standardised approaches to integrated pathways of support for CDNTs and Primary Care staff.

##### **Staffing of the CDNTs**

Since 2019, more than 475 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services



across the country. These posts have been assigned to teams based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area.

In addition, further to recent agreement with Government, the HSE and its CDNT Lead Agencies will receive funding for an additional 136.3 WTEs to provide services in 104 special schools.

These additional posts are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs in special schools.

The attached CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review undertaken in 2021 has provided valuable information on the number of staff working in the CDNTs by discipline and grade. The detailed information available following this review is allowing targeted workforce planning by the HSE in consultation with lead agencies and the Children's Disability Network Managers to reinforce the skill mix of their teams so that we accommodate local population needs.

Data for the 2022 CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review is currently being collated. It is intended that this updated information will be available in December 2022 allowing for a 2021 / 2022 trend analysis.

In addition, detailed contact information in relation to each CDNT is available on the HSE website, at the following link:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/disability-support-and-services/childrens-disability-services/find-a-childrens-disability-service.html>

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operation**

