



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,  
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21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022

Mr. Barry Cowen T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Question - 52418/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of Children's Disability Network Teams in CHO8; the locations in which each team is based; the number 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.**

Dear Deputy Cowen,

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.

*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 template outlining the location of teams, 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.



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

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