



Head of Service
Disability Services

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23rd September 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 45619/22

To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the recruitment of an occupational therapist to the children's disability network team service 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.

As with other areas disability services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns. A SECH panel has recently been formed for Senior Occupational Therapists and a Staff Grade Occupational Therapist national panel is now in place with a national supplementary campaign underway.

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 (CDNM) are exploring different ways to offer support 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,

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