



**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do  
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas**

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**4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Mr Gary Gannon, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

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**PQ ref 46312/22**

'To ask the Minister for Health Network teams that serve the HSE CHO 9 area; his views regarding a letter received by a person from one of the Children's Disability Network teams that states there is a minimum 40 week wait to be seen by them in view of the fact that most children have been waiting for many years under the previous regime without being seen; the reason that the wait list is so long; if there are staffing and other resourcing issues at play; his plan to rectify the issue; for a timeline for such plans that can be provided to waiting families; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

**PQ Ref 46376/22**

'To ask the Minister for Health if he will specify all children's disability network teams that serve the HSE CHO 9 area.'

Dear Deputy Gannon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) were established in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (CHO DNCC) on 20th September 2021. It is a very significant change programme with a new model of service which focuses on outcomes for children and families rather than inputs. An interdisciplinary team will work with each family to develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and support children and parents to reach goals identified on the plan. The focus is on the goals that children and families may meaningfully aim to achieve at home and steps they may take together with the Children's Disability Network Team rather than the number of sessions of therapies like speech and language.

CHO DNCC Disability Services have significant concerns regarding our current waiting lists for some CDNT services. We are constantly exploring all options available to us to address these waiting lists to improve the access to services for children and their families. We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO area. This demand for services is caused by a number of factors, including but not limited to significant population growth coupled with some vulnerable population groups and areas of deprivation.

At present the average vacancy rate across CDNTs in Dublin North City and County is almost 40%. The HSE and all lead agencies are working to address this skills shortage through targeted recruitment campaigns, overseas recruitment and initiatives with training colleges.

Disability Services is a highly regulated sector, with services required to comply with legislative obligations as well as numerous policy documents which require implementation. CDNTs are mandated to comply with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005 and this must be their priority when providing services.

Concurrently I, as, Head of Service Disability chair a CHO DNCC Governance Group overseeing CDNTs, and this group is exploring if there are any alternative staff grades or qualifications which may assist staff in CDNTs whilst they navigate the significant change within service delivery. The level of staff vacancies is not easily resolved as there are essentially more posts for Allied Health Professionals than qualified staff available nationally. We have also increased the level of administrative support to these teams. The teams are also experiencing high levels of maternity leave. In this regard and in an effort to mitigate the risk, I have agreed with the CEOs of the Lead Agencies to approve the backfill of maternity leave which is not resourced within the allocated budget and Inter Agency Agreement for delivery of children's services in CDNTs.

I assure you that we are continuing to work towards improved access to services with a focus on rolling out universal and targeted care pathways for children and families on waiting lists, including developing webinars, group-based workshops and information sessions for children and families and development of a repository of online resources for children and their families to promote and enable wellbeing at home.

There are 12 Children's Disability Network Teams in CHO DNCC as follows:

CDNT	Agency	Contact Details	Phone
<b>Dublin North</b>			
Balbriggan	CRC	<a href="mailto:cdntbalbriggan@crc.ie">cdntbalbriggan@crc.ie</a>	01 968 2750
Swords	CRC	<a href="mailto:cdntbalbriggan@crc.ie">cdntbalbriggan@crc.ie</a>	01 968 2700
Coastal	St Michaels House	<a href="mailto:cdntcoastal@smh.ie">cdntcoastal@smh.ie</a>	01 839 8356
Coolock	St Michaels House	<a href="mailto:cdntcoolock@smh.ie">cdntcoolock@smh.ie</a>	01 9214 512
Kilbarrack	St Michaels House	<a href="mailto:cdntkilbarrack@smh.ie">cdntkilbarrack@smh.ie</a>	01 8770 531
<b>Dublin North Central</b>			
Clontarf	CRC	<a href="mailto:cdntclontarf@crc.ie">cdntclontarf@crc.ie</a>	01 854 2200
Ballymun	St Michaels House	<a href="mailto:cdntballymun@smh.ie">cdntballymun@smh.ie</a>	086 035 8659
North Inner City	Health Service Executive	<a href="mailto:cdntnic@hse.ie">cdntnic@hse.ie</a>	01 921 1658
<b>Dublin North West</b>			
Finglas	Health Service Executive	<a href="mailto:cdntfinglas@hse.ie">cdntfinglas@hse.ie</a>	01 827 6802
Cabra/Grangegorman	Avista	<a href="mailto:cdntcabra@docservice.ie">cdntcabra@docservice.ie</a>	01 5567 800
Blakestown	Avista	<a href="mailto:cdntblakestown@docservice.ie">cdntblakestown@docservice.ie</a>	01 5567 800
Blanchardstown	Avista	<a href="mailto:cdntblanchardstown@docservice.ie">cdntblanchardstown@docservice.ie</a>	01 5567 800

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**