



Head of Service
Disability Services

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South East Community Healthcare,
HSE, Lacken, Dublin Road,
Kilkenny

t 087 1880042

21st April 2023

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 17559/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if there are plans to provide occupational therapy service for those with mild intellectual disability in County Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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.

In relation to Children's Services, regrettably, effective from 14th April 2023, the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) – Network 1 has no Occupational Therapists (OT) on the team and we are endeavouring to fill the vacant posts.

In relation to Adults Services, OT is provided through Primary Care Services for adults with mild intellectual disability.

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally.

South East Community Healthcare continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns.

The HSE acknowledges that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are particularly stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNTs.

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