

27th April 2023

Claire Kerrane TD
Dail Eireann
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Dublin 2

Office of the General Manager
Disability Social Care
Community Healthcare West,
Old Health Centre, Vicar St., Tuam, Co. Galway.
Tel: 09337951

PQ 18167/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide an update on the staffing levels for the children's disability network teams in Roscommon and Galway”.

Dear Deputy Kerrane

I refer to PQ 18167/23 uploaded on the PAD System on the 14th April 2023 and due for response on the 1st May 2023 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide an update on the staffing levels for the children's disability network teams in Roscommon and Galway. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that there are a number of vacant posts associated with the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) 4 to 9 in Galway and Roscommon. The vacancy rate for staff in CDNTs 4 to 9 vary from 4% to 52% with the average vacancy rate across the 6 teams equating to 22%.

Recruitment and retention of staff remains a priority for the delivery of services to children with complex needs that are registered with the CDNTs in Community Healthcare West (CHW). We are currently recruiting staff across all disciplines for a waiting list initiative to address waiting times in all Children's Disability Network Teams. We continue to actively recruit, on a daily basis, for therapy staff via the HSE recruitment process and through private recruitment agencies, however, this is particularly challenging due to unprecedented shortages in personnel in the allied health professional sector.

I trust that this response has clarified the matters that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely



Colette Ansbro
Interim GM PDS/GM ECC/Office of the CO, CHO West