

5th May 2023

Alan Dillon TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 19298/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will outline the reason children (67 Children within South Mayo CDNT 2) are waiting up to 12 months for access to interdisciplinary supports and therapies; the steps being taken to reduce this wait time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Dillon

I refer to PQ 19298/23 uploaded on the PAD System on the 20th April 2023 and due for response on the 8th May 2023 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth “if she will outline the reason children (67 Children within South Mayo CDNT 2) are waiting up to 12 months for access to interdisciplinary supports and therapies; the steps being taken to reduce this wait time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” 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 that exist in Children's Disability Network Team 2 with a vacancy rate of 31% which is ongoing since reconfiguration in 2022.

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.

Children's Disability Network Team 2 are committed to providing the relevant supports to all children in the service that is responsive to need and supports families.

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

Yours sincerely

pp Maura Monaghan

John Fitzmaurice
Head of Disability Services
Community Healthcare West