



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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15th March 2023

Mr Alan Farrell, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 10024/23 *"To ask the Minister for Health how many children are waiting for their initial appointment for the CDNT in the CHO 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter"* **Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) were established in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) in late September 2021. The reconfiguration of children's disability services has been a very significant change management project and has necessitated development of new teams, a new model of service that adheres to national policies and required development of new skill sets and new care pathways.

The CDNTs and Lead Agencies (Central Remedial Clinic, Avista, St Michael's House and HSE) have worked closely together to manage the change process, mitigate risks and promote the new model of service across the 12 CDNTs in CHO DNCC. CDNTs are now providing a new model of service for children with disabilities and their families in CHO DNCC for over 12 months.

The introduction of CDNTs represents an evidence-based fundamental shift to a child and family centred model of care. This model of service sees a family set and achieve their own goals, supported by an interdisciplinary team. The ultimate goal of this approach is to enable children to flourish at home and in their communities. The focus of CDNT service delivery is child and family centred and enabling the child and family to carry out exercises and activities at home that may enhance their family life. In this regard, CDNTs often bring groups of children and groups of parents together to learn new skills and mix with each other in person or through digital platforms, which is convenient for many families in today's world. Family members learn how to support their child's development at home, as part of their everyday life and based in evidence across the world, which has formed the framework of the CDNT working models.

I can confirm the current number of children awaiting service from a CDNT is 2,986. This is a significant number and should be viewed in the context of a 40% staff vacancy rate across the CHODNCC CDNTs. Despite the very high levels of vacancy the teams have opened the cases of 700 children in the past year and a number of the teams are also providing supports to children on the waiting lists.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability