

01st March, 2023

Niamh Smyth T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 7444/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new appointments that have been made to the children's disability network teams (Enable Ireland) services in counties Cavan and Monaghan since January 2022, in light of the very high vacancy rate within the service.

Dear Deputy Smyth

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position. Enable Ireland, since the reconfiguration of Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in the Cavan and Monaghan area took place in September 2021, provides CDNT services in Co. Cavan. The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides the CDNT services in Co. Monaghan. The reconfiguration to a CDNT for both Co. Monaghan and Co. Cavan arose further to the roll out of the national Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People programme.

All new positions under the Children's Disability Network Teams are approved via the National Progressing Disability Services Programme allocation of development posts. The funding and total number of posts allocated are determined at a national level, informed by profile of need at Community Healthcare Organisation level (CHO), and forwarded to CHO.

In Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) allocation is divided among the seven CDNTs. Since the commencement of this process the Enable Ireland CDNT Cavan received the following positions:

| Area | Discipline | WTE | Update |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| Development post 2022 | Clinical Nurse Specialist | 0.5 | Vacant. Advertised, closing date 9 th March 2023 |
| Development Post 2022 | Senior Occupational Therapist | 0.7 | Vacant. Re-advertised, closing date 13 th March 2023 |
| Development Post 2022 | Senior Psychologist | 0.5 | Filled 3 rd October 2022 |
| Development Post Late 2021 | Senior Physiotherapist | 1 | Vacant. Re-advertised, closing date 13 th March 2023 |
| Development Post Late 2021 | Staff Grade Clinical Psychologist | 1 | Became vacant on 5 th Oct 2022, re- |



| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | advertised, closing date 14 th March 2023 |
|--|--|--|--|

Towards the end of December 2022 the Government announced the allocation of additional therapy positions to support Special Schools. The Holy Family School is based in Co. Cavan and the Enable Ireland Cavan CDNT received the following positions:

| Area | Discipline | WTE | Update |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| Special Schools | Senior Occupational Therapist | 1 | Interviews taking place on 23 rd March 2023 |
| Special Schools | Senior Psychologist | 0.5 | Advertised, closing date 6 th March 2023 |
| Special Schools | Senior Physiotherapist | 1 | Advertised, closing date 13 th March 2023. |

The current vacancies within the Enable Ireland CDNT in Cavan, relating to recent resignations and maternity leave, are as follows:

| Profession/Discipline | WTE |
|---|------|
| Senior Occupational Therapist | 2.00 |
| Staff Grade Physiotherapist | 1.00 |
| Staff Grade Psychologist | 1.00 |
| Senior Speech and Language Therapist | 3.00 |
| Staff Grade Speech and Language Therapist | 1.80 |

All appropriate recruitment processes to backfill the positions are underway and ongoing as required and in line with the information provided above regarding recruitment to development posts.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1