



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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2nd February, 2023

Mr. Robert Troy T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question – 63703/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will reinstate staff to speech therapy services in County Longford (details supplied). -Robert Troy

(Details) - I am informed that staff were removed from this service during the pandemic response to take up other positions and that these roles have never been re-filled.

Dear Deputy Troy,

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 I outline response as follows.

Social Care Disabilities:

At present all Speech and Language Therapy staff in Longford with the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) 8 Longford are working in their substantive posts within the CDNT. Recent staff vacancies have been due to staff resignations, maternity leave, and lack of expression of interest in vacant posts through the recruitment process.

National Disabilities and national and local HR are reviewing all options to address the current vacancies as quickly as possible. There are a number of vacancies that have no active National Panels and work is ongoing to ensure that such active panels will be in place. The Head of Service for Disability Services is working with the HR Department on a plan as to how these posts may be filled. CHO8 has been approved to run local campaigns for Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy. The HSE is also actively engaged in various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts which will positively impact on waiting times for all disciplines.



Primary Care

At present all Speech and Language Therapy staff in Longford – Central Westmeath Network are working in their substantive posts within the Speech and Language Therapy Department. Recent staff vacancies are due to staff resignations, maternity leave, and lack of expression of interest in vacant posts through the recruitment process.

CAMHS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff were redeployed from this service to take up frontline positions as part of the emergency response to COVID-19. The CAMHS Speech and Language Therapist was redeployed to part-time swabbing duties from March to August. In September 2020 the Speech and Language Therapist returned to normal duties within Longford CAMHS.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation