



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

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20 July 2023

Mark Ward TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 32507/23

Re: *“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children waiting on assessment of needs and the average waiting time in each Community Disability Network Teams in Dublin Mid-West; his plans to address these waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I requested a Business Manager in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The total number of Children waiting Assessment of Need clinical assessment as at end of June 2023 is 2812

Following the High Court ruling DSKWW had a total of 1243 who received a Preliminary Teams Assessment (PTA) and these must now be re-assessed. These 1243 are included in the 2812 figure above.

DSKWW allocated 20% of each CDNT's Psychology resource matched with SLT and OT from July 2022 to provide a maximum of 45 assessments per month. When dedicated teams are put in place this allocation will decrease accordingly and these clinicians will return to providing interventions/service. The knock-on effect of CDNT team clinicians completing Assessment of Need Assessments is that there is less resource on the CDNTs for providing interventions/service where waitlists are already approx. 2 years.

DSKWW allocated 24.5 of the allocated 2022 new development posts plus 8.5 additional posts to creating dedicated AON clinical teams to clear the backlog. The proposal was to create 11 teams, consisting of 3 clinicians (1 x Psychologist, 1 x Speech & Language Therapist and 1 x Occupational Therapist). These dedicated AON assessment teams are assigned to each of DSKWW CDNTs (1 for each CDNT). Recruitment campaigns were put in place in August 2022 and include UK and international recruitment. Recruitment of clinicians is challenging and to date we have 4 of the dedicated teams in place. It is anticipated that a further 3 teams will be in place by December 2023.

The average waiting time in each Community Disability Network Teams is set out below:

Children's Disability Network Team	Average wait in June 2023 (since referral to a children's disability team for an initial contact in months)
CDNT 1	18.1
CDNT 2	16.72
CDNT 3	46
CDNT 4	23.34
CDNT 5	20
CDNT 6	23
CDNT 7	26.87
CDNT 8	48
CDNT 9	8.5
CDNT 10	24.1
CDNT 11	10.8

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P



Deborah Jacob

Head of Service, Disability Services

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.