



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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4th August 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 36250/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 614 of 30 May 2023, of the 610 development posts that have been allocated to Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) since 2019, the number of which have been filled; the number of staff in Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in the same period who have retired or resigned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 36251/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 614 of 30 May 2023, of the 180 additional staff awaiting approval for 2024, the number of HSCP and the number of administrative staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

In addition to the five most common health and social care professionals on CDNTs nationally i.e. occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, speech and language therapists and social workers, there are a varied range of other disciplines on the teams following reconfiguration of existing posts in disability service providers to CDNTs under PDS.

Since 2019, more than 610 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. These posts have been assigned to teams based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area. This figure includes 190



posts provided in 2022 as well as an additional 136.3 WTEs to restore pre-existing services in 104 special schools.

The HSE completed its second annual Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review in October 2022. The resulting report was finalised in February 2023 and has been circulated to relevant stakeholders.

An overall analysis of the data from 2021 and 2022 demonstrates an increase of 11% in the number of approved posts and a 2% increase in the CDNT workforce. This increase has been achieved in a context where there is an average turnover rate of 9.6% in health and social care professionals each year.

The census indicates over 707 posts vacant out of 2102.62 at this time across all CDNTs. Disability services, similar to all other areas of the Irish health services, are experiencing enormous challenges in recruiting Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) at this time.

Of the allocated posts in 2021 and 2022, there are 287.89 unfilled. This data was submitted as at 31/05/23. Please note that information regarding all the CDNT posts was captured in the Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review in October 2022. Further information will be captured in the upcoming Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review 2023. This will be commencing in October this year.

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026

The document has been developed by the HSE in consultation with HSE funded Lead Agencies of CDNTs, Department of Health (formally), and the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and agreed by Minister Roderic O'Gorman and Minister of State for Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte.

Under Workforce, the Roadmap includes a number of critical retention and recruitment actions including:

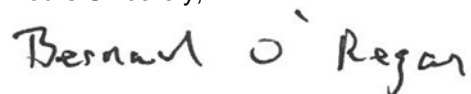
- Recruitment of 462 of the above 700 unfilled posts by the end of 2023 and the balance of 240 posts in 2025.
- 300 Therapy Assistant posts over 2023 (50 posts), 2024 (125 posts) and 2025 (125 posts)
- 360 new whole time equivalent (WTE) Health and Social Care Professional posts for CDNTs in 2025-2026
- 78 WTE posts in Primary Care CHNs to support children with disabilities and non complex needs more appropriately.

The Roadmap was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th 2023 and will be launched shortly by DCEDIY.

Further information regarding the breakdown of the disciplines and grades is not available currently.

An Independent CDNT Review, for completion by Q3 2024, will review the competencies and skill sets required for CDNTs which will assist in defining additional staffing requirements.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

