



Office of the Head of Primary Care
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12th July 2023

Mr. Jim O'Callaghan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 34409/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists in Wexford; the number of unfilled positions for speech and language therapists in Wexford; the steps his Department is taking to improve this situation and to increase the number of speech and language therapists in Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position in relation to Primary Care and Disability Services in Wexford.

Primary Care Services Wexford

Primary Care SLT Wexford	Approved Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)	Actual WTE
Manager	1	1 (Acting)
Clinical specialist	1	0 (Currently Acting Manager)
Senior Grade	10	7.4
Staff Grade	14.6	10.8

There are 3.8 staff grade vacancies currently. Vacant posts have been offered out to the panels and no expressions were made.

Disability Services

To note there are no Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) posts in Adult Disability Services.

The following table sets out the current Speech and Language Therapy staffing levels in relation to the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in Wexford:

CDNT	No. of SLT's in Post	Current Vacancies
CDNT Network 8 New Ross	0	2 WTE SLT's
CDNT Network 9 Gorey	2 WTE Senior SLT's (* 1 on mat leave)	2 WTE SLT's 1 WTE Senior SLT
CDNT Network 10 Wexford	1.64 WTE Senior SLT's	2.5 WTE SLT's 1 WTE Senior SLT
CDNT Network 11 Enniscorthy	1 WTE Senior SLT 1 WTE SLT	1 WTE SLT 1 WTE Senior SLT

The HSE acknowledge that waiting times for CDNT service at this time is stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNT's.

Child and Adolescent MHS

There are three approved SLT posts for CAMHS Wexford - 2 Senior SLT and 1 Clinical Specialist SLT. Currently there is one 0.8 senior SLT in place. The second senior post went to recruitment panel in the last month - it remains unfilled at this time. As there was no expression of interest from SECH panel, the post was offered on the national senior panel. To date there have been no expressions of interest. Interviews were held on Thursday 13th July 2023 for the clinical specialist post. There was a successful candidate interviewed and it is hoped they will fill this post in due course.

As with other areas South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges across all services including Primary Care, Disability Services and Mental Health Services. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally. SECH continues to prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.

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

Yours sincerely,



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