



22nd March 2023

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 12979/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current vacancy rate for Carlow children's disability network team.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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 reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The approved staffing for CDNT – Network 1 Carlow is 23 WTE. The current vacancies for CDNT – Network 1 are as follows:

Vacant Posts	WTE
Senior Dietician x 2	1.00
Clerical Officer	0.40
Senior Speech and Language Therapist x 2	1.30
Senior Medical Social Worker	1.00
Senior Clinical Psychologist x 2	1.50
Senior Occupational Therapist x 4	4.00
Occupational Therapist	1.00

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally.

South East Community Healthcare continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns.

The HSE acknowledge that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are particularly 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 CDNTs.



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Ennis', written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Ms. Anne Ennis
Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare