



9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Mr. Martin Browne TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 20319/23**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE allocations for Carlow disability network team; the number of WTE posts vacant on 1 April 2023, broken down by discipline in tabular form; the current caseload numbers for this team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.*

<b>Carlow Disability Network Team Staffing as at 01/04/2023</b>	
<b>No. of WTE allocations at 01/04/23</b>	<b>23.58 WTE</b>
<b>No. of WTE posts by discipline vacant at 01/04/23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x Senior Dietitian</li><li>• 1.3 x Senior Speech and Language Therapist</li><li>• 1 x Speech and Language Therapist</li><li>• 1 x Senior Medical Social Worker</li><li>• 2 x Clinical Psychologist</li><li>• 1.5 Senior Clinical Psychologist</li><li>• 3 x Senior Occupational Therapist</li><li>• 1.5 x Occupational Therapist</li></ul>
<b>Total WTE vacant as at 01/04/23</b>	<b>12.30</b>
<b>No. of children attached to the team as at 01/04/23</b>	<b>619</b>

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 prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.



The HSE acknowledges that current waiting times for CDNT services are 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 faint, handwritten signature in blue ink, which is mostly illegible but appears to be 'Anne Ennis'.

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