



8<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Mr. Martin Browne TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 20413/23**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE allocations for the Thomastown children's 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>Thomastown Childrens Disability Network Team Staffing as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	
<b>No. of WTE allocations as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>13.50 WTE</b>
<b>No. of WTE posts by discipline vacant as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 x Speech and Language Therapist</li><li>• 0.8 x Clinical Nurse Manager 2</li><li>• 1 x Senior Medical Social Worker</li><li>• 1 x Senior Occupational Therapist</li></ul>
<b>Total WTE vacant as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>3.80</b>
<b>No. of children attached to the team as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>275</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 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 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**