

16th May, 2023.

Ms. Holly Cairns TD
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ 21339/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the amount and scope of support being offered to a school (details supplied) by the Carrigaline-Kinsale-Bandon children's disability network team, including ring-fenced hours assigned to children in the school of a speech and language therapist and a psychologist; the timeframe the CDNT has been allocated to support children in the school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Detail Supplied: Carrigaline Community Special School

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

Background:

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) were established during 2021 in Cork and throughout the country to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area in line with the Progressing Disability Services (PDS) model. CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Every child with complex needs arising from a disability will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

There are 14 CDNT's in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, the location of each aligning with the 14 Community Healthcare Networks. Each CDNT is managed by a Lead Agency namely COPE Foundation, Brothers of Charity (BOC), Enable Ireland, CoAction and St Josephs Foundation (SJF).

One of the primary objectives in the development of CDNT's is to have equity of access to services for all children and their families based on need and not diagnosis. Access must be based on the child having a complex functional disability and not on diagnosis or category of disability or the school he/she attends.

Supports within Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon Childrens Disability Network Team

CDNT 13 – Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon CDNT (A Brothers of Charity led team) is the team that supports Carrigaline Community Special School. The CDNT continues to work closely with teachers, school staff, Special Needs Assistants and Principals regarding the individual children and the family’s needs. Children have access to a range of interdisciplinary supports detailed in the table below:-

Staffing of Carrigaline/Kinsale/Bandon CDNT

Carrigaline/Kinsale/ Bandon	Children Disability Network Manager	1.00
	Physiotherapist	2.48
	Occupational Therapist	4.62
	Speech & Language Therapist	5.30
	Psychologist	4.30
	Social Worker	1.95
	Nursing	0.90
	Family Support	2.17
	Other Support	1.00
	Administration	1.56
	Total	25.28

Special Schools:

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is aware that the reinstatement of health and social care supports in special schools has been identified as a priority. An additional 26.0 posts were allocated to CKCH in 2022 based on the numbers of schools and the whole time equivalents (WTE) in situ prior to reconfiguration and commencement of two new special schools in Carrigaline and Rochestown.

The lead agencies have commenced the recruitment process for these posts. In the meantime, the teams have provided supports to children as the Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) model of service based on a child’s needs and resource availability.

The following table provides a breakdown of vacant therapy posts (whole time equivalents) per discipline allocated to Special Schools CKCH.

CKCH	Discipline	WTE
	Senior Physiotherapist	4.50
	Senior Occupational Therapist	7.20
	Senior Speech & Language Therapist	6.60
	Senior Psychologist	4.20
	Senior Social Worker	3.40
	Total	25.9

1.0 WTE of these posts have been assigned to Carrigaline Community Special School. There are significant challenges with recruitment of Health & Social Care Professionals currently and in particular in Section 39 agencies due to lack of pay parity with HSE and Section 38 payscales.

CDNT13 are to provide the inputs to Carrigaline Community Special School and it has increased its OT and SLT resource to deliver the PDS model under the HSE SOP on Special Schools. It has not been possible yet to recruit the psychology additional resource, see table below. The team has an initial visit to the school this week.



The recruitment status for the posts allocated to Carrigaline Special School is as follows:

Discipline	Grade	WTE allocated	Wte filled	Status
OT	Senior	0.33	0.33	Commenced on 2 May 2023
SLT	Senior	0.33	0.33	Commenced April 2023
Psychologist	Senior	0.33	0	Recruitment ongoing both internally and externally

Per above CDNT 13 was allocated 1.0 WTE over 3 disciplines to deliver Child & Family Centred priority Goals for children attending CCSS. Additional resources are recruited to the CDNT and the individual clinicians assigned from the Team, from time to time may vary depending on the skillset required to address presenting issues. The model of service is the PDS model where the child and families priority goals are identified.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

