



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,  
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer  
Community Health Organisation  
Midlands Louth Meath

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2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023

Mr. Ruairí Ó Murchú T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Question –25899/23**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will outline the efforts being made by his Department to tackle the huge waiting lists for needs assessments, SLT services and other related services for children in County Louth CHO8; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

CHO8 are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. These challenges are not unique to this CHO and are affecting many teams across the country and across many clinical disciplines, which is having an impact on service delivery.

The HSE is currently actively engaged in various recruitment initiatives to fill vacant posts which will positively impact on waiting times for all disciplines.

Recruitment remains a priority at all times and all efforts at a local and national level are being explored ongoing on a daily basis.

Multiple competitions have and continue to take place in efforts to fill all vacancies. The national pool is limited and although every effort is being made to maximize this pool through links with colleges and universities, there remains a significant deficit nationally in many of the clinical professions.

To supplement the national pool, the HSE is continuing to source candidates through the international market. The HSE is supported in this recruitment initiative by international recruitment partners who will engage and recruit with interested applicants on behalf of the service and to HSE standards

All referrals to Children's Disability Network Teams are reviewed and prioritised for services in line with National Policy. The CDNTs continue to strive to deliver as timely a service as possible but this at present is extremely challenging due to vacancy levels.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Anne Kennedy  
Acting Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation