



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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13th June 2023

Mr Alan Farrell TD,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 26317/23 *"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children awaiting their initial appointment with the CDNT in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter"* **Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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 the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) can confirm the number of children awaiting an initial contact from the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) is 2,795.

This is a significant number and should be viewed in the context that all CDNTs are experiencing a number of challenges, in particular recruitment and retention of key health services staff including psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians and physiotherapists among others. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. CHO DNCC is experiencing vacancies ranging from 20-50% across the 12 CDNTs, with an average vacancy rate of 40%.

HSE CHO DNCC Disability Services with the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), St Michael's House (SMH) and AVISTA are running a targeted local and international recruitment campaigns for the staff grades referenced above and interviews are ongoing. Concurrently, CHO DNCC have undertaken to increase administrative support to all the CDNTs, to enable existing clinical staff to devote more of their time directly to children and families.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability