



4th March 2024

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 42321/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of psychologists available to children in South Tipperary within the CDNT/ primary care services; the number of vacancies; if, where a child is unable to access a psychologist within the CDNT services, they can be transferred to primary care; the number of psychologists recruited to each service over the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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 liaised with my colleagues in Primary Care and the following is the current position.

Disability Services - Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) South Tipperary

Unfortunately there are currently no Psychologists in post on CDNT - Network 5 Clonmel. There are two Senior Psychology vacancies and one Staff Grade Psychologist vacant on the team. There are two Senior Psychologists on CDNT – Network 4 Cashel, one of which works part-time. There is a vacancy for a Staff Grade Psychologist.

CDNT Network 4 and 5 acknowledge these gaps in Psychology Services and as a supportive measure has secured the service of a Behavior Therapist to support both teams for 2.5 days per month each. In addition both CDNT's are outsourcing assessments for children who will be commencing school in September 2024, who require an assessment in order to secure a place in a special class in a mainstream school. A child can only transfer between CDNT and Primary Care if there is a clinical rationale for same.

Primary Care Services Psychology Services (Children Service) South Tipperary

The Primary Care Psychology Service operates across Networks 4 & 5. There are currently 2.6 WTE Psychologists in post in addition to 2 WTE Psychology Assistants. There are 2 WTE Psychologist temporary vacancies in addition to 2 WTE Psychologist Assistants vacancies. To assist with meeting the demand for access to Psychology Services, a Play Therapist has been contracted to provide services as deemed appropriate by the Psychologist.



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 handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Fitzgerald'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen Fitzgerald
A/Head of Service – Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare