



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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8th November 2023

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

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 46112/23 *To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how many therapist vacancies the CDNT teams 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 with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Within Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) the twelve Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) managed by the Lead Agencies (Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), AVISTA, St Michael's House (SMH) and HSE) have worked closely together to achieve the change process, mitigate risks and promote the new model of service.

This has seen all twelve CHO DNCC CDNTs provide the new model of service for children with disabilities and their families over the past 24 months. The introduction of CDNTs represents an evidence-based fundamental shift to a child and family-centred model of care. The new model of service involves a family setting and achieving their own goals, supported by an interdisciplinary team. The ultimate goal of this model of service is to enable children to flourish at home and in their community.

The following table provides an overview of vacant therapist roles. The figures provided are Working Time Equivalent (WTE). This information was collected in the last Staff Census in June 2023.

CDNT Network	Number of vacant Occupational Therapist positions	Number of vacant Speech and Language Therapist positions	Number of vacant Physiotherapist positions	Number of vacant Psychologist positions
Balbriggan	1	3.50	3.40	4
Swords	1.10	2.70	0.12	1.52
Coastal	1	0	1.50	1
Coolock	1	0	0	0
Kilbarrack	2.8	0	2.10	3.6
Finglas	1	0.60	0	1
NIC	1	0	1.50	1
Ballymun	0.25	1	0	0
Cabra/Grangegorman	1.5	3	0	2
Clontarf	1	0.80	2	0.33
Blanchardstown	0.5	1	0	1
Blakestown	3	3	2	4
*Totals	15.15	15.60	12.62	19.45

*Please note the total vacancies refer to the Whole-Time Equivalents (WTE), not the individual. Whole-time equivalent is a unit of measurement that indicates the workload of an employed person in a way that makes workloads comparable across various contexts and is not always represented in whole numbers.

CHO DNCC Disability Services alongside, the CRC, SMH and AVISTA are running targeted local and international recruitment campaigns for the vacancies 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