



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

22nd March 2024

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 9531/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of HSE funded therapists that have been allocated to special schools in County Tipperary in tabular form.

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

Since 2019, more than 610 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. These posts have been assigned to teams based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area.

This figure includes 190 posts provided in 2022 as well as an additional 136.3 WTEs to restore pre-existing services in 104 special schools. In addition, the recruitment target of 300 Therapy Assistants over the next 2 and ½ years to work on CDNTs will also support children onsite in special schools with additional needs arising from their disability.

With regard to the question asked, both Community Healthcare Area 3 (CHO 3) and Community Health Care Area 5 (CHO 5) have provided information.

CHO 3 inform that 1.5WTE was allocated to St Anne's Special School in North Tipperary. The following table shows how that is broken down per discipline:

OT	PT	Psychology	SW	SLT	Other	Total
0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.5 WTE



The following table sets out the number of HSE funded therapists that have been allocated to special schools in South Tipperary CHO 5

Therapists	WTE
Senior Occupational Therapists x 2	1.20
Senior Speech and Language Therapists x 2	1.70
Social Worker	0.50
Senior Psychologist	0.50
Senior Physiotherapist x 2	1.40

CHO 5 inform that the above therapists have not been recruited to date.

Based on the CDNT Staffing Census (Oct 2022), there are over 700 vacant whole time equivalent posts in CDNTs. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services.

The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. The HSE Community Operations Disability Services is working collaboratively with the CDNT lead agencies at CHO level to promote CDNTs as a workplace of choice in a competitive employment market.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

However, there are significant challenges for CDNTs including:

- Significant staffing vacancies
- Growth in numbers of children with complex need

Growth in demand for Assessment of Need, diverting further resources away from interventions.

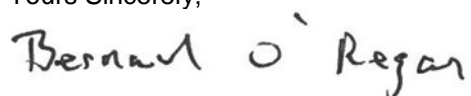
Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

The Roadmap is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families. It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, that for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

The Roadmap actions include a robust suite of 60 actions including 21 CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, the majority of which are now in train. An intense and focused recruitment campaign to fill the remaining posts continues.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director,
Disability Services

