



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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31st January 2024

Deputy Patrick Costello,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: patrick.costello@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Costello,

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: 3914/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how many vacancies in each of the CDNT teams across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter

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.

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.

CDNT Staff Census Oct 2022: over 700 vacant whole time equivalent posts in CDNTs. Please see the attached report.

CDNT Staff Census Oct 2023: Due to the ongoing FORSA industrial action, this is not yet available

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 approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023, 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, 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.

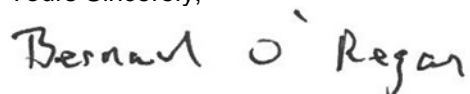


The Roadmap actions includes a robust suite of 60 actions, including 21 on CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, many of which are now in train.

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.

In addition, Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte, has convened a Disabilities Workforce Enhancement Group, including National Disability Operations Team, National HR and NCPPD representation, focused on the immediate, medium and long term sustainability of Disabilities workforce, including CDNT

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

