



9 July 2024

Bernard J. Durkan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 26266/24

Re: Children's Disability Network Team – North Kildare

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the extent to which disability services for children are available throughout north County Kildare; the areas of deficiency that have been identified; the remediation plans for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- Bernard J. Durkan TD

Dear Deputy Durkan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I requested that the Children's Disability Network Manager – North Kildare to examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The referrals to the service have increased 36% in 2024 when compared to the referral rate for the same period in 2023. The North Kildare Team wait time for initial appointment is approximately 18 months. The team is currently experiencing a number of vacancies across all disciplines, with a vacancy rate of 41%, with recruitment ongoing and a number of posts due to be filled through international and national recruitment.

The resource available to the team impacts on wait times for assessment and intervention, with clinical risk and priority tools used to inform use of resources which are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure resources are maximised and the greatest number of children access intervention that results in meaningful outcomes for them.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Catherine Duffy.' The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret O'Neill,
Interim Head of Service, Disability Services
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.