

13th September 2024

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 35477/24

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason there are no permanent contracts being offered to all therapists in an organisation (details supplied) in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Detail Supplied:

Minister we have numerous positions within COPE Cork i.e OT's, Physios, Speech and language therapists, who are on fixed term contracts and are unable to receive a permanent contract. This is putting alot of pressure on these people to seek employment elsewhere and even travel abroad. Many of these people will not be able to apply for Mortgages as they do not have full time permanent employment. This needs to be looked at and highlighted.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parlimentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

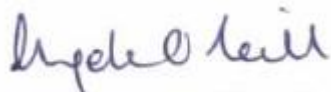
The CEO of Cope Foundation has advised that there are currently ten health and social care professional staff across three children's disability network teams who are employed on fixed term contracts. These staff members are covering posts that are temporarily vacant due to different forms of leave such as maternity or parental leave. On occasion, temporary posts are created to enhance services using “Time Related Savings”. In such circumstances, the available funding determines the duration of the fixed term period of employment.

In the absence of permanent funding and Whole Time Equivalents, Cope Foundation does not have the authority to fill posts on a permanent basis.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to engage with all of our Section 38 and Section 39 providers to progress the recruitment of health and social care professionals. We are committed to ensuring that vacant posts across all of our teams are filled so that appropriate supports can be provided across the region.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Angela O'Neill', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Angela O'Neill
Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare