



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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10th March, 2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ reference PQ 10834/25 – Representation from Deputy Sorca Clarke enquiring if there are plans to replace the Speech and Language Therapists on maternity leave at the Primary Care Centre in Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your representation has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

East Westmeath Primary Care Network will have two Senior Speech and Language Therapists commencing maternity leave in 2025. 1 WTE (Whole time equivalent) will commence on 17th March and 1 WTE will commence on 09th April.

A request has been sent from the Primary Care Network Manager office to the General Manager in Primary Care to escalate up accordingly to fill these maternity leave vacancies on a temporary capacity.

One of these vacancies is in Adult services and the other vacancy is in Paediatric services. We will do all that we can with the resources available to us to minimise the disruption to the people of East Westmeath, whilst we await approval to recruit to these posts.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.



Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation