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19th March, 2025

Mr. Padraig O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9071/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date in filling occupational therapy services at a location (details supplied), including maternity cover; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Details supplied: Mayfield Primary Care Team Cork .

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary Care Services are organised on a geographical basis across Ireland with 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) nationwide. There are 14 CHNs operational across Cork and Kerry. CHN 8, known as North Cork City Central, has a population of 35,729 and comprises of five areas: (i) Blackpool/The Glen; (ii) Carrignavar; (iii) Mayfield; (iv) Montenotte/Tivoli; and (v) St. Patrick's. CHN 8 covers areas to the north side of Cork city.

The following table outlines the budgeted v's the actual whole time equivalent (WTE) in situ in the network:

Occupational Therapy Paediatrics			
WTE Budget	WTE Actual	Efforts Made	Comment
3 WTE	0.6 WTE	1 WTE commencing post on 21 st April 2025. Prioritisation rating in use.	0.2 WTE Parental Leave. 0.2 WTE has a clinical co-ordinator role. 1 WTE on statutory leave
Occupational Therapy Adult Population			
WTE Budget	WTE Actual	Efforts Made	Comment
5 WTE	3 WTE	Cross cover from another CHN provided in October 2024 to achieve National KPIs.	0.4 WTE approved December 2024 going through the recruitment process.

At present in Community Healthcare Network 8, North Cork City Central, there is 1 WTE occupational therapist employed, and 1 WTE occupational therapist commencing in April 2025 who provide services to the paediatric population. There are 3 WTE occupational therapists working with the adult population.

Efforts are continuing to increase staffing resources where vacancies arise and in this regard, the Senior Leadership Team, as part of the post prioritisation process, are reviewing all vacant posts with a particular focus on services which have long waiting times.

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Posts approved for filling will be progressed by way of National HSE panels for Senior and Staff Grade OTs. Where posts were not filled via the National Recruitment Service, local temporary recruitment is underway.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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