



General Manager of Children's
Disability Services
HSE Carlow Kilkenny and
Tipperary South
HSE Waterford Wexford

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30th May 2025

Mr. David Cullinane TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 26116/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if each children's disability network team in Waterford has a full complement of staff to carry out assessments of need; and if not, the reason why.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) - Network 6 Dungarvan has staff across all disciplines who can complete assessments as appropriate to their discipline. The CDNT is not currently in a position to complete Multidisciplinary Team Autism Identification Assessments if they are required as they do not have staff trained in this area but have an action plan to develop this competency.

CDNT - Network 7 North City Waterford has staff across all disciplines who can complete assessments as appropriate to their discipline. The CDNT currently has no Psychologist in post and therefore Psychology Assessments are outsourced.

CDNT - Network 7 South City Waterford (CRC) has a team of trained professionals in place who are carrying out Assessment of Need Assessments and interventions. They have been fortunate in recruitment and retention of staff and have the disciplines required available on the team.

As with other areas Disability Services within IHA Waterford/Wexford are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally. The IHA continues to prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.

The HSE acknowledges that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNTs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Cleary
General Manager – Children's Disability Services
IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
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