



26 June 2025

Ruth Coppinger TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 26216/25

Re: Children's Disability Network Teams

"To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for a progress report on reducing the waiting list for accessing children's disability network teams in Dublin west; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

- Ruth Coppinger

Dear Deputy Coppinger,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Disability Services is committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children with disabilities in Kildare and Dublin South. Efforts are actively underway to reduce waiting times and engage with families and staff to enhance services that meet their needs. A range of targeted strategies are being employed to improve service delivery for children with disabilities.

Specific actions include:

- Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs): The Children's Disability Network Teams are structured to provide a multidisciplinary approach, offering comprehensive support to children within their local communities.
- Community and Parental Support: Initiatives are in place to strengthen resources and training for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, fostering a more inclusive support network at home and within the community.

Currently, CDNTs face significant vacancy rates across key health and social care disciplines, including occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, and social work. Disability Services, in collaboration with recruitment partners, have launched local, national, and international recruitment campaigns to address these shortages and remains committed to exploring all avenues to fill these vital roles.

Disability Services continues to prioritize resolving challenges in service provision, ensuring that children with disabilities in County Kildare and Dublin South have access to the support and resources they need for their development.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret O'Neill,
Head of Service, Disability Services
HSE Dublin and Midlands