



Limistéar Sláinte Comhtháite Bhaile Átha Cliath Chathair Theas & Thiar,
Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Primary Care
Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West,
Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas,
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2

Email: cho7.pqreps@hse.ie Tel: (045) 882 597

05/11/2025.

Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 52502/25 To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the recruitment plan for public health nurses in Dublin Midwest; if P2 and P3 services will be available in all parts of the constituency in the coming year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm that the Public Health Nursing Service in the Dublin Midwest area are experiencing a significant shortage of Public Health Nurses, Community Registered Nurses, Healthcare Assistants and Clinical Nurse Specialists. There has been detailed planning of work at site-specific levels to proactively manage staff retirements, staff transfers, staff vacancies, maternity leave, and sick leave (short and long term) on front-line services.

The staff shortages have meant that some areas are operating a Priority 1 (P1) service as per the National Caseload Prioritisation Procedure for the PHN Service. This means that the service is prioritising essential services in line with immediate clinical needs and national guidelines, and unfortunately some services will not be provided. Regrettably, this may include child development assessments. Births notification visits face to face, primary visit new-born infant and postnatal assessments are identified as time sensitive and are a Priority 1 for the service. The PHN team endeavour to deliver contact to new parents within 24 -72 hrs of discharge from hospital. Parents are encouraged to contact their local Primary Care service should they have any concerns about their child.

The region is working to address service provision. This includes development of partnerships between acute hospitals and community partners to provide graduate nurses with opportunity for a clinical rotation to the community and also to initiate a similar opportunity for experienced registered nurses working within hospitals. This development is in its infancy but is one of a number of measures which will improve the Public Health Nursing workforce into the future.

In addition, the Department of Health has allocated 6 whole time equivalent (WTE) Community Nursing posts with priority allocation to the three areas where there are currently high pressures (Dublin South City, Dublin West, Dublin South-West). These posts have been accepted through the Student PHN programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kearney

Head of Primary Care

Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas, HSE

Dublin & Midlands