Mr Mattie McGrath, TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street Dublin 2 Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,

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General Manager Primary Care,

HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County, Ballymun Healthcare Facility, Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

26th April 2019

PQ 17886/19 – To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 9 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Mattie McGrath

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services across CHO Dublin North City and County accept referrals for children aged from 0 to 18 years who are resident in the area. Children with referrals that have been accepted to the service are seen for an initial assessment appointment and therapeutic intervention is offered as appropriate to assessed communication needs.

Children resident in the CHO Dublin North City and County area with complex needs are referred to and attend other Disability and Mental Health service providers in the area eg. St Michaels House, Daughters of Charity services, Central Remedial Clinic, HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, where SLT services are provided as a component of multidisciplinary team interventions.

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

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde, General Manager

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Primary Care