



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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23rd December 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 52410/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children's disability network teams now established; and the CHO breakdown of same.

HSE Response

Reform of Children's Disability Services - Progressing Disability Services Policy

The HSE is rolling out the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) Programme, which requires a reconfiguration of all current HSE and HSE funded children's disability services into geographically-based Children's Disability Network Teams (Early-Intervention and School-aged or 0-18 Teams). This Programme aims to achieve a national equitable approach in service provision for all children based on their individual need and regardless of their disability, where they live or where they go to school. Based on the recommendations of the Report of the National Reference Group on Multidisciplinary Services for Children aged 5-18 Years (2009), its objectives are:


- ✓ One clear pathway to services providing equity of access for all children with disabilities, according to their need.
- ✓ Effective teams working with partnership with parents and Education to support children in achieving their potential.
- ✓ Available resources used to the optimum benefit for children and their families.

PDS is doing this by forming partnerships between all the disability organisations in an area and pooling their staff with expertise in the different types of disabilities to form local Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) who will provide for all children with significant disability, regardless of what their disability is.

In tandem with Health service reform which seeks to have Health and Social Care "Networks" in place, the HSE is establishing a total of 96 Children's Disability Networks across each of the nine CHOs and comprised of Specialist Multi- Disciplinary Teams to work with complex disability needs. While some of these Networks are currently in place, others are in the process of being established. The full breakdown per CHO Area is currently being collated and further information will be available in the New Year.

Each Network will have a Children's Disability Network Manager with specialist expertise in providing Children's disability clinical services. The establishment of these Networks was held up due to engagements with Forsa T/U in a conciliation process under the auspices of the WRC during March and April. The Labour Court recommended on 30th October that the HSE proposals regarding an interdisciplinary model for the delivery of services to children with disabilities should be accepted and that overall implementation of these arrangements should proceed. This is a critically important recommendation that underpins essential reform of Children's Disability Services under the Progressing Disability Services Policy. Subject to the approval of derogations by the Head of Community Operations, the appointment of these Network Managers can now proceed following the recent Labour Court ruling and it is anticipated that the appointments of CDNMs will be progressed in Q1 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**