



Seirbhísí Míchumais, Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte an Deiscirt
Cúil na nGarrán, An Sciobairín, Co. Chorcaí, P81 HC43
Disability Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive,
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11th April 2019

Deputy Jan O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14583/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has plans to provide a counselling and advice service for families in particular for the siblings of children diagnosed with autism in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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.

Services for children with a disability are provided by the Kerry Intervention & Disability Services teams (KIDS) teams in the Kerry area. The KIDS teams deliver their service based on the needs of individual children, there are no generic services based on diagnosis of autism. The service provided is a bespoke service based on the needs of the specific child at the specific point in time. The teams deliver services to children from the ages of 0-18 years of age.

When a child receives a diagnosis of disability, including a diagnosis of autism, intervention is delivered through a tiered level of support, namely, universal interventions, targeted interventions and direct interventions as identified through the child's Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP). This plan evolves from discussions between the child's parents and the relevant clinicians. The child's family are given post diagnostic training and information packs. As part of the interaction with families post diagnosis, information is supplied around the provision of supports to siblings as part of the targeted tiered approach to interventions. The KIDS teams run sibling workshops (SibShop). This is a program for siblings of children with a disability.

Through the IFSP, the family and clinicians meet to determine the requirements for both the child with the disability and the family.

The KIDS teams provides the family with support advice and guidance in terms of supporting their child and dealing with the associated impact to the family of the diagnosed disability

The teams also provide a range of targeted interventions aimed at empowering the families understanding of their child's needs for example, the Hanen Programme, Early Bird Programme, Sib Shop

Disability Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare does not provide counselling services. The requirements for a counselling service would be determined by a GP who would in turn make the appropriate referral to the relevant services.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Daly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jackie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Daly".

**General Manager
Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

