



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Social Care
South East Community Healthcare
c/o Community Care Headquarters
James' Green
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600
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5th December, 2019

Mr. John McGuinness T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 48871/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to improve paediatric health and disability services in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The HSE recognise that children's health and social care needs are becoming increasingly complex, mainly due to increased survival of extreme prematurity, increased numbers of children with chronic health issues, obesity, and a sharp rise in allergic diseases. Investment in child health is recognised internationally as one of the best-buys for healthcare systems. SECH is now considering the optimal approach to delivering on child health and social care needs in the region in response to national policy and service developments and population needs.

The South East Community Healthcare (SECH) plan to ensure every child and young person will be supported to reach their potential to be healthy, confident and resilient. To meet this objective the SECH has established an Integrated Children's Service Committee to develop and deliver an integrated local service model for Children and Youth across SECH within the context of National Frameworks and within available resources. In line with national policy this committee for SECH will be tasked with the following;

- develop a high level SECH wide strategic plan
- establish integrated children's services within SECH and across care groups and SECH population health and social care needs,
- optimise the health and wellbeing of all children & youth through the provision of appropriate services (within available resources) that are accessible, integrated and clearly signposted.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'PMcEvoy', written in black ink.

Patricia McEvoy

General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare