



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
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Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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Head of Service Primary Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Mr. Paul McAuliffe, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

13th August 2020

PQ 19518/20 – To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE Dublin North West early intervention and primary care teams have access to dietetics and speech and language therapy services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Paul McAuliffe

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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.

The Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy Department in Dublin North West (DNW) provide services to children (0-18 years) who present with speech, language, voice, fluency and social communication difficulties as their primary need. Our team of senior and staff-grade clinicians provide this service to all primary care teams across five primary care centre sites.

In addition, a SLT team of senior and staff-grade therapists specialising in the assessment, diagnosis and management of adult acquired communication and eating/drinking/ swallowing disorders provide a service for adults (18+) to all primary care teams across two primary care sites and domiciliary visits.

The Dietetic service in Primary Care in DNW covers both adults and children providing a mixture of clinics face to face and via telehealth since the COVID 19 adjustment to service delivery. We also deliver group work for patients with Diabetes and weight management issues (with a concomitant medical condition). All of these groups are being reviewed with a view to more eLearning and blended group delivery systems. Referrals for the service come from our primary care team colleagues, GPs, hospital dietitians and hospital consultants and are seen based on clinical prioritisation.

There is also a Home Enteral Tube feeding service in the area with 0.5 WTE post covering 45 patients on feeds living at home. This service has continued since March and has enabled patients to stay at home during the pandemic with care delivered to them at the bedside. Unfortunately we have no service for children in the area who are on feeds and living at home and have submitted for this service development.

Access to Dietetics for primary care teams is limited and there are no specialist paediatric Dietitians in primary care.

In relation to Early Intervention services, I am advised of the following by Ms. Olive Hanley, Head of Social Care Service CHO DNCC:

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) Dublin North West Early Intervention Service (EIT) provides Speech and Language Therapy services on behalf of the HSE. Dietetic services are not currently provided by EIT Services.

A Feeding Eating Drinking Swallowing (FEDS) working group is considering the provision of dietetic services as part of Progressing Disability Services (PDS) Programme development. Care pathways for children with Eating, Drinking and Swallowing disorders will also be developed as part of this Programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me regarding Primary Care service matters. Please contact Ms. Olive Hanley, Head of Social Care Service CHO DNCC at hosc.dncc@hse.ie in relation to any queries regarding Social Care service matters.

Yours sincerely



Des O'Flynn
Head of Service Primary Care