

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Deputy Michael McGrath,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 5419/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the status of an application by an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: Rainbow Club Centre for Autism.**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

An application for funding from The Rainbow Club was received by Disability Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare in January 2020. It was reviewed in line with the HSE National Service Plan for the re-configuration of Childrens’ Disability Services in 2020 which includes the roll out of the National Programme for Progressing Disabilities Services (PDS) for Children.

I will take this opportunity to provide you with some information around the National Programme for Progressing Disabilities Services for Children. There will be 14 Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across Cork Kerry Community Healthcare once the reconfiguration is complete. We currently have 4 teams in Kerry and 1 team in West Cork established. It is envisaged that the remaining teams in Cork will be reconfigured in early 2021. Children’s Disability Network Teams support children with complex needs arising from a disability. Many children with difficulties or delays in development can have their needs met by their local Primary Care services. The Children’s Disability Network Team has experience working with children and families with disability and complex needs. They work together with children and their families on goals that are important to that child and family. This includes but is not limited to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder with complex needs. The Children’s Disability Network Team aims to provide the child and their family with support and guidance to maximise the child’s independence and participation in their community. The team works in partnership with the child and family to provide a quality service based on Family Centred and Evidence Based practice. The Team includes the following disciplines Psychology, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Worker, Nursing, Social Care Worker.

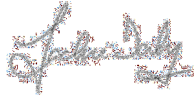
The HSE are working with our Partner Section 38 and 39 organisations to implement the ‘Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme. The key objective of PDS is to provide equity of access to all children with complex needs based on

their individual need, regardless of their diagnosis, where they live or go to school.

Currently the development of Progressing Disability Services is the priority for funding within children disability services for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. Therefore, Disability Services Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are not in a position to support The Rainbow Club's application for funding at this time.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



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Ms. Jackie Daly,  
Interim Head of Disability Services,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

