



4th December 2020

Mr. Alan Farrell, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

Head of Service for Disability,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 35944/20 -

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to streamline the referral process for children that move between early intervention services and the school age team in north County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) are improving how children's disability services are provided as part of Progressing Disability Services (PDS), which is underway across Ireland.

PDS, which is for all children with disabilities from 0-18, will streamline the referral process for children who move between Early Intervention services and the School Aged Disability Team (SADT) across CHO DNCC over time. It will also mean every family will be clear how to access services, have fair access and use the same model of care. Services will be based on a child's needs rather than on their diagnosis.

Four service providers will lead out on the PDS Programme for children with disabilities living in CHO DNCC. These providers are the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), Daughters of Charity Disability Support Service (DOCDSS), St Michael's House (SMH) and the HSE. The service providers will work in partnership with St Paul's Service, Child Vision, Chime, Catholic Institute for Deaf People School for the Deaf and HSE Services including Primary Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Beechpark Autism Services.

Over the next six months the plans for Progressing Disability Services across CHO DNCC are as follows:


- Setting up 12 Children's Disability Network Teams comprising staff providing existing children's disability services.
- Each Children's Disability Network Team has a Network Manager in place.
- The Network Manager will manage the Children's Disability Network Team.
- Every child will be assigned to a Children's Disability Network Team.
- For those families waiting for an Assessment of Need, across CHO DNCC there are additional resources in place at this time to respond to this.
- For those families on waiting lists, their child will be assigned to their local Children's Disability Network Team, taking into account their date of referral and the waiting list.
- As this progresses, the service providers will be in regular contact with parents and there will be a transition plan for each child.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are currently being rolled out as part of the PDS Programme and will provide services for all children with more significant needs and who require a team of professionals working together. This will be regardless of the child's disability, diagnosis or where he or she goes to school.

- The CRC will be the Lead Agency for the Balbriggan, Swords and Clontarf Networks
- St. Michael's House will be the Lead Agency for Kilbarrack, Coolock and Ballymun Networks.
- The Daughters of Charity will be the Lead Agency for Cabra, Grangegorman, Blakestown and Blanchardstown Networks.
- The HSE (CHO DNCC) will be Lead Agency for Finglas and North Inner City Networks.

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

Yours sincerely,



Enda Doody
Acting Head of Service for Disability