



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 31812/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of optometrists recruited by the HSE for CHO area 5 in each of the years 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; if there are plans to roll out enhanced eyesight testing for children between 8 and 12 years of age in schools to assist in early diagnosis of any degeneration which may be missed in the absence of such a programme for free especially in low income households; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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 examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report was launched in June 2017. The Report sets out current levels of service, models of service provision and the consultation process undertaken with patients, advocates, ophthalmic staff and representative bodies. It also highlights the limitations of the current model of service delivery and sets out the way forward for a significant amount of eye services to be delivered in a primary care setting. The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology has developed a model of care which details how the re-alignment of eye services from the acute hospitals to the community will be undertaken. The recommendations from the PCESRG Report also complement the Model of Care.

The Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report remains current and the HSE is implementing as follows.

The HSE has established 3 x Primary Eye Care Teams with the appointment of Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, recruitment of optometrists with orthoptists initially in 3 x CHO areas namely CHO 6, 7 and 9. There are plans to roll-out teams in line with funding approval.

There are no Optometrists currently employed within Community Ophthalmology Services in South East Community Healthcare.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jeanne Hendrick
**A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare**