



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Deputy Paul Kehoe,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 31875/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with a disability under the age of 16 years registered with the HSE disability services in each of the years 2016 and 2019, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

The primary planning tool for the purposes of service planning for people with a Disability is the National Ability Support System (NASS), which incorporates the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD). NASS is a national database that records information about disability-funded services that are received or required as a result of an intellectual disability, developmental delay, physical, sensory, neurological, learning, autism spectrum, speech/language disability arising from disease, disorder or trauma.

The purpose of NASS is to gather information to aid the planning, development and organisation of disability-funded services. A person is eligible to be registered on NASS if they receive or require (in the next 5 years) a disability-funded service.

NASS replaces two disability databases, the NIDD and NPSDD, which were decommissioned in January 2018. In this regard, data held on the NIDD and NPSDD is currently under migration to the NASS, so an up to date record of service provision for people with Intellectual Disability is currently being compiled. The latest data available is contained in the last Report of the NIDD, which is based on 2017 data. This and previous NIDD Annual Reports can be access at the following link: <https://www.hrb.ie/publications/publications/5/>

It should be noted that information on children registered with the HSE CHO Areas and Voluntary Service Providers of disability services is not currently gathered at national level. However, we know from the Children's MIS (Management Information System), which is currently being piloted in the Mid-West area, that approximately 3.5% of the child population requires access to Children's Disability Services (HSE and HSE funded voluntary organisations) and a further 0.5% for Primary Care services, which is in line with current international evidence.

I also attach in the Appendices below, details of the numbers of service users aged under 18 years that are seen for Initial Assessment in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy, which is collated by our Primary Care colleagues in the HSE. Please note the following:

- The available information is for 2017 and subsequent years only.
- For each of these services the number of appointments provided for persons with a disability is not reported.
- Data is not reported for children under 16 years old. The available reported information is for children under 18 years.
- OT – The reported information is the number of service users aged under 18 years old seen for a First Time Assessment.
- SLT – The reported information is the number of service users aged under 18 years old seen for Initial Assessment.
- Physiotherapy – there is no age breakdown for the numbers of service users seen. The reported information is the number of referrals accepted for patients aged under 18 years of age.

### **Overall Reform of Children's Disability Services - Progressing Disability Services Programme**

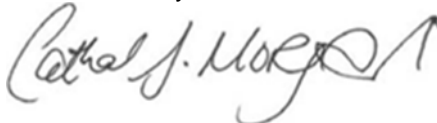
The HSE acknowledges the challenges in meeting the demand for children's disability services and is acutely conscious of how this impacts on children and their families.

A number of service improvements are being introduced that, when implemented, will help improve access to services for children with disabilities and developmental delays. The overall programme of improvement is the ongoing roll out of Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS). This requires the reorganisation of all current HSE and HSE funded children's disability services into geographically-based Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs).

PDS is doing this by forming partnerships between all the disability organisations in an area and pooling their staff with expertise in the different types of disabilities to form the CDNTs. These teams will provide for all children with significant disability, regardless of their disability, where they live or where they go to school.

The HSE is establishing Children's Disability Networks across each of the nine CHOs comprised of Specialist Multi-Disciplinary Teams to work with children with complex disability needs. Each Network will have a Children's Disability Network Manager with specialist expertise in providing children's disability clinical services. The appointment of these managers will facilitate the establishment of the Children's Disability Network Teams in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**

## Appendix 1

Occupational Therapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for a First Time Assessment in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	2,532	2,767	3,120
Donegal	3,749	3,896	3,817
Sligo Leitrim	2,075	3,032	3,776
CHO1	8,356	9,695	10,713
Galway	3,986	4,206	4,306
Mayo	2,973	3,200	2,876
Roscommon	1,672	2,185	2,228
CHO2	8,631	9,591	9,410
Clare	953	1,142	1,001
Limerick	1,142	914	868
North Tipperary East Limerick	955	777	1,089
CHO3	3,050	2,833	2,958
Kerry	3,656	4,144	3,190
North Cork	574	938	1,263
North Lee	2,927	3,164	4,355
South Lee	4,226	4,807	5,599
West Cork	1,160	982	1,293
CHO4	12,543	14,035	15,700
Carlow Kilkenny	5,181	4,861	3,867
South Tipperary	2,573	2,728	2,420
Waterford	2,980	3,288	3,141
Wexford	3,442	3,933	4,545
CHO5	14,176	14,810	13,973
Dublin South East	1,491	2,504	2,417
Dun Laoghaire	2,076	1,644	2,376
Wicklow	1,826	2,026	1,883
CHO6	5,393	6,174	6,676
Dublin South City	2,339	2,462	2,973
Dublin South West	2,751	2,951	3,853
Dublin West	3,945	5,681	6,092
Kildare West Wicklow	4,176	5,191	6,270
CHO7	13,211	16,285	19,188
Laois Offaly	6,824	7,824	7,121
Longford Westmeath	6,535	7,004	6,985
Louth	2,492	3,426	3,694
Meath	3,748	5,098	3,968
CHO8	19,599	23,352	21,768
Dublin North	3,088	2,736	2,787
Dublin North Central	1,475	1,709	1,875
Dublin North West	3,852	4,686	5,230
CHO9	8,415	9,131	9,892
Total	93,374	105,906	110,278

## Appendix 2

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for Initial Assessment in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	8,244	9,603	10,824
Donegal	12,858	10,843	9,619
Sligo Leitrim	5,176	5,898	6,094
CHO1	26,278	26,344	26,537
Galway	14,682	13,937	13,079
Mayo	7,312	9,074	9,848
Roscommon	6,753	7,127	7,265
CHO2	28,747	30,138	30,192
Clare	4,491	4,402	4,792
Limerick	7,136	8,786	8,547
North Tipperary East Limerick	4,485	3,931	3,593
CHO3	16,112	17,119	16,932
Kerry	10,630	9,740	9,738
North Cork	3,987	4,206	3,907
North Lee	9,653	8,852	9,339
South Lee	11,991	11,389	11,912
West Cork	4,175	4,347	3,848
CHO4	40,436	38,534	38,744
Carlow Kilkenny	6,536	6,718	6,191
South Tipperary	6,074	6,541	5,661
Waterford	7,599	6,445	7,317
Wexford	10,834	10,609	11,914
CHO5	31,043	30,313	31,083
Dublin South East	2,591	2,626	2,487
Dun Laoghaire	4,097	3,537	3,840
Wicklow	6,033	5,356	3,496
CHO6	12,721	11,519	9,823
Dublin South City	4,012	2,723	2,672
Dublin South West	5,741	6,257	4,765
Dublin West	6,802	6,979	6,865
Kildare West Wicklow	8,574	7,685	8,067
CHO7	25,129	23,644	22,369
Laois Offaly	8,431	8,020	8,359
Longford Westmeath	8,343	7,784	7,246
Louth	7,602	8,860	8,925
Meath	11,920	11,584	10,957
CHO8	36,296	36,248	35,487
Dublin North	10,000	8,615	9,503
Dublin North Central	8,484	8,286	7,961
Dublin North West	9,246	9,525	7,522
CHO9	27,730	26,426	24,986
Total	244,492	240,285	236,153

### Appendix 3

Physiotherapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old - referrals accepted in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	1,078	1,146	1,153
Donegal	1,238	1,165	1,331
Sligo Leitrim	818	881	864
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>3,348</b>
Galway	1,367	1,427	1,409
Mayo	686	416	598
Roscommon	756	680	631
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,638</b>
Clare	407	483	473
Limerick	1,019	1,101	990
North Tipperary East Limerick	552	657	667
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>2,130</b>
Kerry	1,073	1,080	1,566
North Cork	473	551	584
North Lee	1,015	1,131	849
South Lee	586	640	628
West Cork	342	313	433
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>3,489</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4,060</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	1,361	1,356	1,339
South Tipperary	789	847	901
Waterford	713	808	776
Wexford	781	830	892
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>3,908</b>
Dublin South East	875	707	646
Dun Laoghaire	403	632	678
Wicklow	1,080	1,059	791
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,115</b>
Dublin South City	552	460	548
Dublin South West	913	1,178	879
Dublin West	857	1,300	1,319
Kildare West Wicklow	1,283	1,151	1,124
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>3,870</b>
Laois Offaly	1,539	1,523	1,550
Longford Westmeath	1,247	1,142	708
Louth	949	863	821
Meath	1,313	1,454	1,609
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>5,048</b>	<b>4,982</b>	<b>4,688</b>
Dublin North	651	725	852
Dublin North Central	724	781	590
Dublin North West	947	728	866
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2,308</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,387</b>	<b>29,215</b>	<b>29,065</b>