



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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27th January 2021

Deputy Neale Richmond,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: neale.richmond@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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

PQ 45104/20

To ask the Minister for Health if the progressing disability services plan will include supports for those children who do not receive their therapy in the home but in a special school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 45105/20

To ask the Minister for Health if continuity measures will be put in place under the progressing disability services plan to ensure those children who do receive their therapy and services outside of the home will be supported and allowed to continue to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 45106/20

To ask the Minister for Health if assurances will be given that children outside of special school catchment areas will be able to transfer to the children's disability network teams associated with the school and to have their therapy within the school setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay (December 2019) was developed in the context of restructuring delivery of services as part of the 'Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People' Programme (PDSCYP). The aims and objectives of the PDSCYP are as follows:

- A clear pathway to services for all children according to need.
- Effective teams working in partnership with parents and service users.
- Resources used to the greatest benefit for all children and families.
- Partnership between health and education to support children to achieve their potential.
- Access to services is a critical part of the programme. This policy provides clarity on access for children and young people and their families to both Children's Disability Services and Primary Care Services.

As required by government policy and as described in the 2017 Sláintecare Report, health and social care services in Ireland must be delivered in an integrated manner, as close to the person's home as possible. The fundamental organisational unit to deliver these services will be the Community Healthcare Network serving an average population of 50,000 people. To facilitate integration and to support the delivery of population based healthcare, each person's home address will determine their access to services.

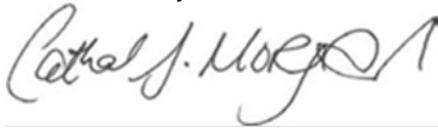
As outlined in the National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay:

- The child's residence determines the Community Healthcare Organisation and the Children's Disability Network Service which has responsibility for the child's services.
- Children are seen by the Children's Disability Network Team according to their home address.
- Where a child attends a school or pre-school outside his or her CHO, the home address CHO remains responsible for all the child's services.
- Where significant numbers of children with complex needs attend a special school outside of the catchment area for their Children's Disability Network Team, local arrangements whereby these children may access services from the Children's Disability Network Team nearest to that special school may be agreed. This arrangement should be clearly defined and must take full cognisance of the principles for service delivery for Children's Disability Network Teams. This arrangement does not mean that this service provision will necessarily be school based, nor does it mean that services for these children are prioritised over services for children attending mainstream school.
- Each Community Healthcare Organisation area is required to have a process in place that will consider any exceptional individual circumstances that may require a child to access an alternative Children's Disability Network Team to that determined by their home address.

Please see weblink below to access the policy.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/documents/national-policy-on-access-to-services-for-disabilities-and-developmental-delay.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



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