

2nd April 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 16315/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if staff will not be redeployed into other services under the PDS in a facility (details supplied).”

Details Supplied: St Joseph's Foundation, Charleville, Co. Cork

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare area will re-configure Children's' Disability Services in 2021 in the Cork area with the roll out of the National Programme for Progressing Disabilities Services (PDS) for Children and the National Access Policy for Children with Developmental and Disability. Services in Kerry and in West Cork have already re-configured and are now structured according to the PDS model. Cork North and Cork North Lee and South Lee will re-configure in April 2021. There will be 14 Children's' Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across Cork Kerry Community Healthcare once the reconfiguration is complete. Mid-West Community Healthcare have also already reconfigured and have Children's' Disability Network Teams in place. Following the National Access Policy

- 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 Community Healthcare Organisation, the home address Community Healthcare Organisation remains responsible for all the child's services.

The HSE are working with our Partner Section 38 and 39 organisations to implement the 'Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS). 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. This means that a child will have the same access to services whether they live in Donegal, Dublin or

Dingle. 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 local Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). There are 56 teams already established under this programme across the country and a remaining 82 to be set up in the coming year, 10 of these will be based in the areas in Cork that have not yet re-configured as outlined above. It is important to note that where these teams are already in place, services are more stream-lined.

Specifically in the cases of children living in the Midwest and transferring from St Joseph's Foundation to the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in the Midwest, St Joseph's Foundation and the receiving CDNT are working closely together to ensure a smooth transition for families. Information presentations have been delivered jointly by both services in the past number of weeks where families have had an opportunity to raise any concerns and have their queries answered. A transition plan for each child with input from families has been arranged so that the receiving service has the most up to date information around individual child and family needs. Each family has been provided with a contact name i.e. the Children's Disability Network Manager for the service that they will be transferring to. Both St Joseph's Foundation and the Midwest Children's Disability Network Teams are committed to ensuring that each individual child and family will have a smooth transition and that families have a support plan in place to keep them informed at all times along the way.

With specific reference to redeployment, Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) personnel will be providing interdisciplinary services to children with complex needs under the model of Progressing Disability Services (PDS). This an identified priority service area within the context of resumption of services plan during the pandemic and personnel will not be redeployed into other service areas.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely



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