



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service - Disability Services Office
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14th October 2021

Mr. Sean Sherlock T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 47991/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age awaiting a first-time appointment since being switched to the new children's disability network team (Enable Ireland) by age, intervention type, SLT, occupational therapy and physiotherapy in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

A national programme called 'Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People' (PDS) is changing the way services are provided across the country. The programme aims to make service provision more equitable and consistent for children from 0-18 years. Children's Disability Services are changing from 'diagnosis' based to 'needs' based so that all children with a disability/developmental delay have access to the service they need locally to where they live and in a timely fashion. Services are provided to children based on their geographical home address. Under the programme, Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) will provide services for the children with significant and complex needs who require a team of professionals working together. Children with less complex needs will receive their service at Primary Care level. This programme was developed, based on extensive evidence as well as feedback from families of children with disabilities and from staff in existing CDNTs. The PDS objectives are to:

1. Provide a clear pathway and fairer access to services for children with a disability and their family
2. To offer services based on need, not diagnosis, and as near to home address as possible.
3. To work in partnership with families and education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.
4. To make the best use of resources for the benefit of children and their families.

There are two Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNT’s) now delivering services to children in Co. Kilkenny.

- The Children’s Disability Network 3 team (CDNT 3) is an Enable Ireland led team and provides services to the Kilkenny city and North Kilkenny area.
- These newly reconfigured Children’s Disability Network Teams comprise of health care professionals across all disciplines - Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Nursing and supported with administration.

These newly reconfigured Children’s Disability Network Teams became operational on the 27th of September 2021 and comprise of healthcare professionals across all disciplines – Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Nursing and supported with administration.

The new model of service is moving from unidisciplinary service provision to interdisciplinary team working where the team and the family work collaboratively to prioritise the child’s needs through a model of key contact support and an individual family centred plan. Within this new model children are not separately waitlisted to access individual disciplines on referral to the team.

The data requested is as follows:

Number of children transferred to CDNT3 as “Open and Active”	Total	Age 0-5yrs	Age 6-18yrs
	309	85	224

Number of children transferred to CDNT3 as “Waiting Services”				
	188	140 **	43	5
		0-5yrs 55 6-18 yrs 85	All aged 0-5yrs	0-5yrs 1 6-18yrs 4

**47 children wait listed for ASD diagnostic assessment were also transferred open and active to CDNT3 for intervention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Karen Fitzgerald
General Manager - Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare