



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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28th September 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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: 44736/21

To ask the Minister for Health the network teams that are in planning stage under the progressing disability services; and the network teams that are in implementation stage in tabular form.

HSE Response

The HSE is committed to the full implementation of the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS). PDS is a significant change programme for the provision of services and supports for children from birth to 18 years of age, in line with Sláintecare and the Programme for Government, in order to:

- Provide a clear pathway and fairer access to services for all children with a disability
- Make the best use of available resources for the benefit of all children and their families
- Ensure effective teams are working in partnership with families and with education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

PDS aligns with two clear objectives of The Sláintecare Report to:

- Provide the majority of care at or as close to home as possible
- Create an integrated system of care with healthcare professionals working closely together.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are being established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team will work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Once all teams are in place, every child with complex needs will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

Children and their families will have access to the full range of services and supports of the CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Services in most parts of the country have now reconfigured to CDNTs. The remaining teams in Community Healthcare Organisations 2 and 8 will be established before the end of November 2021 thereby all 91 CDNTs will be in place and delivering services at that time. Once all teams are in place, every child with complex needs will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend. Disability Services to support children and their families will continue in the interim during this final planning stage.

Please see the table below which outlines the current status of the CDNTs in each of the nine Community Healthcare areas.

CHO	Status
1	7 CDNTs in place since 20/9/21
2	9 CDNTs to "go live" on 11/10/21
3	7 CDNTs in place
4	14 CDNTs in place
5	12 CDNTs in place since 27/9/21
6	7 CDNTs in place since 13/9/21
7	11 CDNTs in place since 20/9/21
8	12 CDNTs to be established Meath / Louth from 25/10/21 Midlands from 29/11/21
9	12 CDNTs in place since 20/9/21

Yours sincerely,



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