



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir (Oirdheisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath /Chill Mhantáin)
Bloc B, Lárionad Cathrach, An Phríomhshráid, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin, A98 X329
Teileafón: 01 2744200 Facs: 01 2744280

Community Healthcare East (Dublin South East/ Wicklow)
Block B, Civic Centre, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 X329
Telephone: 01 2744200 Fax: 01 2744280

28th September 2021

Deputy Neale Richmond
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 46137/21 - "To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a school (details supplied) was told that it would not lose services after the pausing then stopping of the progressing disability services policy applying to special schools have had a reduction in their service provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter" – Neale Richmond

Details provided: Carmona School, Glenageary, Co. Dublin

Dear Deputy Richmond,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The HSE has not removed school-based clinical supports for children attending Carmona School, 111 Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The HSE has carried out all requests and directions made by Minister Rabbitte, her department and the HSE Disability National Office.

CH-East Disability service have always acted in good faith and in an open and transparent manner with the information received from the current service provider (SJOG) and in communication with parents.

There has always been a historical disparity to the allocation of resources to the special schools hence PDS is the most equitable model to meet a child and family's needs for the future.

The HSE acknowledge that the children who attend Carmona have complex needs and since the reconfiguration in to CDNT's on the 13th September the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) are in attendance at Carmona as per the existing allocation outlined by Minister Rabbitte.

The pre-covid allocation levels based on the information given by SJOG in April '21 is outlined in the table below.

| | | | Pre-Covid | CDNT 3 from 13 th September '21 |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|--|
| CARMONA SPECIAL NATIONAL SCHOOL | OT | Basic | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | PT | Senior | 0.38 | 0.38 |
| | SLT | Basic | 0.2 | 0.2 |

Following the welcomed approval to back fill the special school resource, the new lead agency (ENABLE IRELAND) under PDS is actively recruiting to fill these vacancies.

In the meantime the CDNT is continuing to provide this level of therapy service to the school from the 13th September within the existing CDNT resources.

In order, to ensure that safe and appropriate service will be continue to be provided under the PDS model of service delivery, over the course of the next two weeks these staff are undertaking the following due diligence exercise under the direction of the Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) in respect of the children who attend Carmona School.

1. Review the transfer reports to identify if any of the following need to be scheduled for the children
 - Clinic Appointments dates/times
 - FES reviews
 - Physical assessment
 - Equipment
 - Orthotics
2. Ascertain the needs of the children and resources required from the CDNT going forward which the above information will assist in this analysis.
3. Secure additional therapy resource for CDNT 3 to support all the children aligned to CDNT including Carmona School.

From the 20th September, to complete this piece of work in a timely manner, the CDNM has increased the clinical resource in addition to the original allocation on a temporary basis from the existing CDNT 3 compliment of staff.

As part of the transfer of services the CDNM has had a several meetings with the Principal of the school and an Action Plan was developed in consultation with the Principal for implementation from the 13th September.

To ensure parents are fully and accurately informed of this plan and all the services provided by the CDNT to support their children. The CEO of the Lead Agency / HSE Chief Officer and Disability Head of Service and the CDNM will be scheduling a meeting with Children's Families separately to the meetings with the Principal in the coming weeks.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Anna Meegan
General Manager
Disability Services