



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,  
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022,

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re Parliamentary Question 18131/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with Down's Syndrome in counties Longford and Westmeath, that are currently attending speech and language therapies.**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

Services for all children with a diagnosis of Down's syndrome are provided through the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's).

Currently there are no specific initiatives for any diagnostic group. All services are planned and delivered in line with children's needs and not based on the child's diagnosis.

Access to services and waiting times are currently impacted by staff vacancies and all vacancies are with HSE recruitment. The need for additional resources within the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) has been escalated with a view to securing additional development posts for the teams in 2022.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Anne Kennedy  
Acting Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation