



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimpléasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Deputy Matt Carthy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 60210/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the criteria outlined in the statement of purpose for children to be approved for respite care in counties Louth and Meath and if he will make a statement on the matter – Matt McCarthy**

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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.

The pathway for referral to Children's Respite Services in counties Louth & Meath is through the respective Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's).

A referral for respite is discussed at a Children's Respite Committee referral meeting. The committee assess each referral and prioritises individuals/families with high complex needs for respite services (P1). Children's Respite Committee Referral meeting for Louth are held monthly, and bi-monthly in Meath.

The committee base their decision on the following rationale:

- Children who are accessing services in the respective CDNT and who are at least 6 years of age.
- Children in the care of the child & family agency *or* children where there are concerns about their welfare or protection.
- Children who live in families where there are multiple incidents of disability and who are known to Louth/Meath Disability Services.
- Children who present with significant behavior(s) that challenge.
- Children who have a significant physical disability & require high support care needs.
- Children whose carers experience chronic illness which may include physical and/or mental health difficulties which is impacting on their ability to provide care.



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation