



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

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

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16th February 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re PQ 5467/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who have been transferred from their existing children's disability network team services to a new service following the recent review of services that has taken place in County Louth and east County Meath; if he will seek a copy of the final report and the details of the exchange of clients between services; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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.

*Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme* (PDS) is a significant change programme for the provision of therapeutic services for children from birth to 18 years of age. It is being rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. PDS will:

- 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 children and their families.
- Ensure effective teams working in partnership with families and with education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

PDS requires pooling together all resources, including staff, facilities and equipment, from the different voluntary agencies and the HSE providing specialist children's disability services, in order to set up Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). A CDNT comprises a team of health and social care professionals who will provide services for a specific geographical area, i.e. Network.

#### **Community Healthcare Networks:**

All 91 CDNTs will align geographically with the 96 Community Healthcare Networks, enabling staff in both services to work better together, in order to ensure the best



outcomes for each child with a disability and their families using our services. Community Healthcare Networks are being implemented across the country to deliver this change and will reshape how we deliver community health care services. A Community Healthcare Network will deliver Primary Health Care Services across an average population of 50,000 and consist of 4-6 primary care teams including General Practice (GPs) working collaboratively to ensure better coordinated care for people using services.

**Plan:**

Re-configuration of services in Co. Louth and Co. Meath commenced on the 4th October 2021 and became operational from the 27th October 2021.

There followed an eight (8) week phased file transfer period from the 4th October 2021 to facilitate the transfer of files and accommodate a review of resources. The transfer of files from the Children's Disability Network Area 4, which encompasses part of east Meath, to Children's Disability Network Area 3 (South Louth), occurred on 26th November 2021.

A National census review of all staffing in all networks is currently underway and a submission for additional development posts has been submitted to the National Office to support the implementation of PDS.

**Transfer from CDNT 1 & 3 (Louth) to CDNT 2 (Kells):**

- 96 children transferred from Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Area 1 & 3 (Louth) to Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Area 2 (Kells, Co Meath).
- Correspondence was sent to all families in advance of the transfer of services. This correspondence outlined the contact details of their CDNT and the appeals process.

**Transfer from CDNT 2, 4 & 6 ( Kells, Dunshaughlin, Trim ) to CDNT 3 (South Louth):**

- 230 children transferred from Children's Disability Network Team Areas (CDNT) Area 2, 4 & 6 to Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Area 3.
- Correspondence was sent to all families in advance of the transfer of services. This correspondence outlined the contact details of their CDNT and the appeals process.

All file transfers occurred as part of an agreed File Transfer SOP in conjunction with the agreed Interagency Agreement and Data Protection Interagency Agreement between Children Disability Network Teams. This is to facilitate full transparency of information to take place. Under these agreements and as per GDPR it is not possible to share the details of the exchange of clients between services.



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 in a cursive style.

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