



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

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Mr Alan Farrell, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ ref 5922/22 To ask the Minister for Health the way the children's disability network teams in Swords and Balbriggan, County Dublin combat the rate of did-not-attends to appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams in Swords and Balbriggan do not report significant issues around Did Not Attend (DNAs) for either clinical appointments or for Preliminary Team Assessments (PTAs) appointments currently. If the team do have a cancellation in advance they do their utmost to re-allocate the appointment.

In relation to PTAs, the team will contact the family and reschedule within the availabilities of the team resources. The teams are guided by national policy relating to the availability of attendance. If a family continually fails to engage with appointments (e.g. three or more DNAs with no notice given), the case is discussed and a key contact and/ or social work will contact the family. If there is a family circumstance identified that needs a flexible approach to support engagement in services, under the family-centred practice the issue is considered within the availabilities of the team resources.

Intervention can take place in clinical setting, home, school or suitable local community venue to support the family to attend. If the Individual Family Service Plan needs to be reviewed to better meet the goals of the family this is scheduled by the CDNT team.

If there is a safeguarding concern due to non-engagement with services and the needs of the child a referral will be made to TUSLA.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jillian Connolly
Acting Head of Service for Disability