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21st February 2022

Denis Naughten TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

**PQ 6148/22**
**"To ask the Minister for Health when the children's disability network team will be established in the CHO2 area; when children referred to the service can expect to start receiving appointments; the interim plans in place to support such children; and if he will make a statement on the matter"**.

Dear Deputy Naughten

I refer to PQ 6148/22 uploaded on the PAD System on the 2nd February 2022 and due for response on the 21st February 2022 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning "when the children's disability network team will be established in the CHO2 area; when children referred to the service can expect to start receiving appointments; the interim plans in place to support such children; and if he will make a statement on the matter".  The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

I wish to advise that Community Healthcare West (CHW) has entered the reconfiguration phase and there has been an acceleration in the process of implementing Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS CYP), with the appointment of 9 Children's Disability Network Managers (CDNMs). Over 200 staff are currently being configured into 9 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across CHW. Seven of these teams are HSE led with Enable Ireland and the Brothers of Charity Galway leading the other two teams.

The PDS Programme will change the way services are provided across the country. In line with PDS policy, reconfiguring will include delivering services based on where children and young people live and through family centred practice. Services are planned to be delivered through a range of provisions and options, such as 1:1 input, group based intervention and universal strategies. The provision of these options will be discussed and planned for each family through an Individual Family Service Plan. This Plan will be developed and agreed between the family and the service, which will include where or how services and input is provided. For all children, the focus is on supporting every child to participate in their family, school and community life and the PDS model is to focus on supporting the family to use strategies and guidance from the team.

Galway and Roscommon transitioned to the implementation phase of PDS late last year and line management for Children's Disability Network Teams in Mayo transferred on the Jan 10th 2022.  As reconfiguration is still ongoing at this time, it is not possible to determine when children referred to the service can expect to start receiving appointments.  Children will continue to receive services from their current service providers for a period of time after this to allow the reconfiguration process to progress.  If a child has a change of therapists, a direct handover between therapists is facilitated.

There are waiting lists for each discipline across each network and this will become clearer when reconfiguration is complete.  CHW continues to carry out assessments and intervention with children.

Whilst every effort is being made to minimise the disruption to children and families, there will inevitably be some impact. To offset this disruption, CHW are recruiting staff across all disciplines for a waiting list initiative to address waiting times in Children's Disability Network Teams.

I trust that this response has clarified the matters that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

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Alma Joyce
General Manager
Disability Services
Community Healthcare West