



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &  
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,  
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

Head of Service, Disabilities  
Dublin South Kildare and West  
Wicklow Community Healthcare

Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas,  
Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hsecho7](https://twitter.com/hsecho7)

t (045) 882 597  
e [cho7.pqreps@hse.ie](mailto:cho7.pqreps@hse.ie)

1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022

Seán Canney  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ 63122/21**

**RE: Young adults with a disability over 18 who did not attend second level special schools appear to be excluded from adult services and how can this be rectified**

**Query 1**

*“To ask the Minister for Health the status of persons who are excluded from services (details supplied); the way the issue will be rectified; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

**Query 2**

*Deputy Canney has advised the department that he has come across a few cases of young people who attended mainstream schools having difficulty accessing adult day services, compared to peers who would have attended special schools. Deputy Canney referenced some of these young people as having received less of a day service, receiving only a day or two a week. Could the response address the HSE's approach to the school leaver issue in CHO7/ if they are aware of any such cases, as well as the national school leaver process. Deputy Canney did not want to provide details of any specific young people at this stage.*

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**Dear Deputy Canney,**

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 of Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Query 1**

**Young adults with a disability over 18 who did not attend second level special schools appear to be excluded from adult services and how can this be rectified**

The process for School Leavers and provision of service is the same for all applicants regardless of whether they attended mainstream or special schools. Below is a brief outline of the process:

- School Leaver process commences from May of the previous year for the current years expected school leaver year, i.e. for SL who will leave school in June 2022, the process for HSE funded Adult Day Service commenced in May 2021.
- Correspondence is sent to school principals in both mainstream and special schools requesting the completion of a referral form identifying all School Leavers who may require a HSE funded Adult Day Service for the following year within CHO 7 – Kildare/West Wicklow/Dublin South City/Dublin South West/Dublin West.
- The referral form is completed by the School and or Family member of each student, the referral form ensures compliance with consent to engage in the School Leaver process.
- An assessment of ADL's is carried out on a "profile form" approved by the National Disability Authority scoring each individual within a specified range of scores to then allocate an overall score which helps to identify the funding allocation requirement for each individual who pursues a placement with the HSE. This interview is conducted by the Day Opportunities Officer in the school with the school leaver, parent/s and teacher.
- Profiles are submitted to the National Disability Specialist Office for review and funding is allocated based on scores. A typical day service is 30 hours per week.
- Clients can pursue day services or rehabilitative training – both funded by HSE Adult Services.
- Rehabilitative Training is for a maximum of 4 year duration and these clients are further reviewed at that stage by Day Opportunities Officer for advancement with the HSE or for progression to other mainstream organisations.
- School leavers who are referred and do not wish to pursue a day service funded by the HSE are given guidance and support regarding further education and linked in with the appropriate personnel if assistance is required.

## **Query 2**

**In addition to the above, this PQ queries young people having difficulty accessing adult day services / receiving less of a day service.**

The provision of service is the same for all applicants and is based on the service users needs as profiled. However, some services experienced disruption due to Covid restrictions and below is some detail on this:

- In March 2020 with the onset of Covid 19, a lot of the providers of day services funded by the HSE closed locations under the public health guidelines issued by the Government, thus impacting all attendees of services. Varying levels of service delivery was introduced over a period of time and commencement of on-line delivery where appropriate / required and this led to a different service provided to different people based on capacity for each person. On-line service delivery was provided

where clients and/or family members had good IT skills but in a reduced capacity based on client need.

- In other circumstances, clients who presented with fluctuating behaviour and personal challenges where services were required to be provided outside their home were risk assessed and service was maintained in location with the assistance of funding provided by the Department of Health adhering to public health guidelines.
- In September 2020, due to the changed way of delivering services and the need to provide remote supports the National Office allocated funding to each CHO for allocation to their day service locations to purchase Technology. Using this technology, providers developed numerous innovative ways to stay engaged with their service users and provide them with remote supports. In addition funding was also allocated to provide additional staff, transport, building refurbishment and procurement of existing community buildings.
- During the Covid 19 pandemic, public health guidelines were introduced during the 2 year period, and in August 2020 – a roadmap “Reframing the challenge, continuing our recovery and re-connecting” outlined the approach to the ongoing management of Covid 19 with potential for full restoration of adult day services.
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 was highlighted as the day Government instructed full restoration of in-location service delivery for all clients and continues to be implemented adhering to public health guidelines, and in line with Governments roadmap with consideration of the current Covid variants for both clients and staff within service

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Jacob

**Deborah Jacob**  
**Head of Service, Disability Services**  
**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.**