



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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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7th July, 2022

Ms Sinead Curristan
Disability Services Unit,
Department of Health
Block 1,
Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin,
D02 XW14

Re: ORAL Parliamentary Question 12345/22 & Allocated Parliamentary Question 37156/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on a waiting list for speech and language therapy and occupational therapy in counties Laois and Offaly; the length of time that these children have been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Ms Curristan,

I acknowledge receipt of the above Oral Parliamentary Questions. I have consulted relevant colleagues in Social Care Disability Services and I outline Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation response as follows.

Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People is being rolled out across the CHO and this means a change in how services are being provided to children with disability. In Laois and Offaly there are three (3) Children's Disability Network Teams, namely Network 12 (covering Portlaoise, Stradbally, Mountrath, Borris in Ossary, Abbeyleix and Ballickmoyler), Network 11 (covering Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Edenderry) and Network 10 (covering Banagher, Birr, Clara, Daingean, Shinrone and Tullamore). Waiting lists are not kept for individual disciplines as this does not reflect the nature of the support provided for children with complex needs. There will be one multi-disciplinary team which will provide a more integrated model of service delivery.

The CDNTs are currently reviewing all children within the service and in the process of planning and delivering on Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for children within the service. An IFSP is an Individual Family Support Plan and is developed by the family, child and the members of the CDNT. It guides how the team supports the child. This is a process which requires getting to know the child and their needs (if not already known), preparing the family to create the IFSP and the development of the document along with the development of the supports to address the identified goals which include universal, targeted, and individual supports. Each IFSP is estimated to take up to 12 clinical hours across 2-3 staff to develop over a period of 6 weeks. This does not include the supports delivered after the IFSP to meet the goals and priorities identified.



In Network 12 there are currently 810 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 450 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

In Network 11 there are currently 643 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 360 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

In Network 10 there are currently 1100 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 700 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

Children with non-complex needs will likely not receive an IFSP, but will require MDT supports.

There are some children where the complexity of needs has not been confirmed and the CDNT's are planning to make contact with these families to further understand their needs.

In addition to managing this period of reconfiguration, the teams are balancing on a daily basis the following service priorities:

- Assessment of Need
- Children at risk of equipment/pressure care breakdown
- Families in crises
- Post hospital discharge
- School placement breakdown
- Transition assessment
- Developing our universal and targeted supports which are key to the model of service

Whilst waiting on provision of an IFSP, children can be provided some other Universal Supports inputs prior to this date depending on the need (Universal Supports are first line of input in format of groups, team facilitation, standardised parent workshops etc.). MLM CHO is currently developing waitlist initiatives which families can avail of while awaiting their IFSP.

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.

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