



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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15th June 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 28266/22

To ask the Minister for Health the progress being made in updating the IT systems for assessments of need and children's disability services; if a new assessment of need system has been procured; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Integrated assessment of need tracing system

The assessment of need tracing system will be utilised nationally to ensure assessment of need is provided in line with the HSE's requirements under the Disability Act 2005 and SI 263/2007 Regulations.

Part 2 of the Disability Act 2005 introduced a system for the assessment of individual health service and education needs for persons with disabilities and in particular provides that on application, the HSE carries out an Assessment of Need and then issues a Service Statement setting out services it is proposed to provide.

In accordance with section 9(5) of the Disability Act 2005 and Regulation 10 of the Disability (Assessment of Need, Services Statements and Redress) regulations 2007, on receipt of an application, an Assessment of Need must have been commenced within three months and must be completed within a further three months.

When the HSE's Assessment Officer has completed the report, and it has been determined the applicant has a disability and the provision of health services are appropriate, a service Statement is completed within one month of receipt of the Assessment of Need Report.

The integrated assessment of need tracing system will facilitate the delivery of the steps detailed above.

A contract has now been signed with a vendor for the development, testing, training and rollout of an integrated assessment of need tracing system for children and adults. This development is scheduled for completion in December 2022, with rollout in Q1 2023.



Childrens Disability Network Teams

In 2021, the remainder of ninety-one CDNTs were established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the expressions of interest process. Hence, some CDNTs may have other disciplines such as nurses, family support workers or early educators.

Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNT IMS)

A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs (CDNTIMS) is in development and when implemented, will provide contemporaneous activity data for all CDNTs.

The project intention is to provide a single, uniform system for the administration of disability services by the 91 CDNTs.

In addition to the national system, this project will also incorporate the HSE Assessment of Need (AoN) database and the National Day Services database.

There is an expected seven months of development time (from May 2022), which will lead to a phased rollout of CDNTIMS, commencing with the first seven teams at end of November 2023, followed by the remaining 84 teams over the following 9 months. Rollout of each team includes a complex data migration process from their existing data systems to CDNTIMS.

Yours sincerely



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations