



**Office of the Head of Service  
Disability Services**

South East Community Healthcare,  
Health Service Executive,  
Ground Floor, St. Otteran's Hospital, John's Hill,  
Waterford.  
X91 DK31.

Telephone 353 87 4533711

5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Mr. John McGuinness T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

**PQ 34094/22 Down Syndrome supports**

I refer to your recent representation on the services and supports that are available in counties Carlow and Kilkenny to parents that have a child with Down syndrome; if he has plans to expand the services available and improve existing services; if funding is in place for the next three years to achieve the improvements and expansion necessary; the funding that was provided over the past three years; and the headings under which the funding was spent relative to Down syndrome services.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The National Service Plan each year outlines the additional funding parameters that are identified to support developing and maintaining safe and effective services.

Under Progressing Disability Services children access services based on need, rather than diagnosis. Children deemed as having complex needs receive their services in the Children Disability Network Teams and children deemed as having non complex needs receive their services in Primary Care.

Disability Services in South East Community Healthcare (SECH) continue to escalate and include in the estimates process issues of additional costs in relation to additional services and supports for all Disability Services Users.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ms. Karen Fitzgerald  
A/Head of Disability Services CHO5  
South East Community Healthcare**