



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie](mailto: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 13154/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under children's disability network teams in circumstances in which the child or their family has not been assigned a key contact broken down by CHO and the length of time waiting for a key contact to be assigned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

Further to my previous reply to this Parliamentary Question, please see an updated response below:

Ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area.

These 91 Children's Disability Networks (CDN) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and each Children's Disability Network has one CDNT providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team will work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Every child with complex needs will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

Children and their families will have access to the full range of services and supports of the 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 will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

The CDNTs operate through a Family-Centred Practice model. This is an approach that focuses on the whole family and not just the child requiring support. It ensures that the family's priorities are considered when setting goals with the family. All families that have a child attending the CDNT will have an assigned key point of contact. The key contact will be a named person on the CDNT and will



act as a link between the family and the team. They will support families with any queries they may have about their service. Teams will assign key contacts to families on a phased basis as they identify the needs of the child and family and identify the most appropriate member of the team to support them.

#### **National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)**

With regard to the specific query outlined in the PQ concerning the number of children that have not yet been assigned a key contact within the CDNTs and the length of time waiting to have a key worker assigned, this information is not currently available nationally. All service users will be assigned a link worker when they are accepted onto each CDNT. The HSE is currently developing a plan to improve this so that families have contact and communication from the service.

A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs (CDNTIMS) is in development and when implemented, will provide contemporaneous activity data for all CDNTs. This will include collation of data on whether a key contact has been assigned to the service users.

Yours sincerely



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