



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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21st April 2022.

Deputy Paul McAuliffe,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ – 16030/22 To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on his efforts to reduce the waiting list for early intervention in speech and language therapy in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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 for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

MLM CHO can advise that there are four individual Children's Disability Networks in the Meath Area. Networks 4 and 5 are operated and managed through Enable Ireland as the Lead Agency. Networks 2 and 6 are operated and managed directly through the HSE.

Efforts are being made to reduce the waiting list for early intervention in Speech & Language Therapy by both agencies as follows.

Networks 4 and 5:

- Actively seeking to backfill vacancies through recruitment and engagement with agencies.
- Reviewing new referrals and children newly assigned to Enable Ireland teams and linking with their families to help determine their needs and prioritise as appropriate.
- Setting up and delivering SLT groups to support a larger number of children in a timelier manner.
- Providing resources to families including access to parent education groups while awaiting 1:1 interventions, if this is indicated to meet the child's needs.
- Actively supporting the ICSF (Integrated Children's Services Forum) and advocating for the full implementation of the NAP (National Access Policy).
- Linking in with SLT Primary Care services for onwards referral/ transfer where it is evident the child's needs would be best met within their service -supporting parents, preschools and schools through education to promote carry over and continuity for the child outside of the therapy environment -regularly reviewing



caseloads and prioritisation of children to ensure we can accommodate emergency needs as much as possible

Network 6:

- Actively recruiting 2 Senior SLT posts. 15 applications received. It is hoped that interviews will take place in April-22.

Network 2:

- 1.6 SLT posts vacant – 1 staff grade & 0.6 senior grade.
- Meath Disability services are in the process of arranging interviews for Senior SLT and a panel will be formed following Interviews.

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 blue ink that reads 'A Kennedy'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Anne Kennedy

Acting Chief Officer

Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation