



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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12th April, 2022

Mr Peter Burke T.D.,
Minister of State for Planning and Local Government,
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,
The Custom House,
Dublin 1

Re: Parliamentary Question - 16742/22

To ask the Minister for Health the proposals to improve access to services and reduce waiting times for appointments for members of a centre (details supplied) for persons with Downs syndrome in counties Longford and Westmeath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peter Burke

(Details) - Springfield Centre, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

Dear Minister Burke,

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 I outline the position as follows.

Currently there are no specific initiatives for any diagnostic group. All services are planned and delivered in line with children's needs and not based on the child's diagnosis.

Access to services and waiting times are currently impacted by staff vacancies and all vacancies are with HSE recruitment. The need for additional resources within the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) has been escalated with a view to securing additional development posts for the teams in 2022.

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,

Martina O'Byrne
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation