



**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.

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24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Sean Sherlock,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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: 23315/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of individualised family service plans that have been issued and accepted by each individual children's disability network team by CHO area.*

**HSE Response**

All 91 Children's Disability Network Teams are now in place. These teams 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 available skill mix. Hence, some CDNTs may include 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.

The CDNT model of service is child and family centred where the team work together with the family to identify the important issues from the family's perspective to be addressed, agree a plan to address those issues, implement the plan and monitor the outcomes. This Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) is a 'live' process in that the team and family keep it under review whilst service supports and strategies are being implemented and as the child and family's needs and achievements change. Each child may benefit from different types of supports depending on their current needs and prioritised issues identified by their family, and this may change over time as the child and family's needs change. For example, sessions by a therapist one on one with a child may be the best option based on need but for another child, joining a group for children with similar needs will achieve better results.



At 31st March 2022, 11,253 children had current Individual Family Support Plans in place. This figure does not include data from CHO8 as this area is continuing to collate the data.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

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

