

20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Pa Daly TD,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House  
Kildare St  
Dublin 2

**PQ: 27352/22 To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide a paediatric diabetes team in University Hospital Kerry and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) – South (Cork & Kerry) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this office for response.

Dear Deputy Daly,

As set out in the National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare services in Ireland (available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/paediatrics-neonatology/moc/chapters/>) high-quality diabetes care is complex, and requires intensive consultant-delivered care within integrated care pathways;- which enables seamless movement for children from primary to secondary and tertiary care as required, and back again. All hospitals providing acute paediatric care need to have staff trained in the acute care of newly diagnosed diabetes, and where a hospital does not have access to a paediatrician with endocrinology training referrals are made to their nearest Diabetes Multidisciplinary Team.

Currently in UHK, each Consultant Paediatrician sees their IDDM patient (0-16years) in their respective OPD shared care with Cork University Hospital (CUH) diabetic team. At initial diagnosis, these children are investigated and treated as per national guidance, enrolled in the national register and referred to the paediatric diabetic team CUH. Averagely 6 monthly UHK OPD follow-ups and 6 monthly CUH follow-ups- giving 3 monthly reviews between UHK clinics and CUH clinics.

The UHK adult diabetic nurse specialist team supports the paediatric team in UHK.

In Nov 2021 future developments in paediatric diabetes for UHK was the subject of direct discussion between UHK and the CUH Paediatric specialist team, however due to Covid 19 demands the hospital was not in a position to progress further at that time.

At this time I wish to advise that the UHK Paediatric team are developing a business case for a UHK Paediatric diabetic team in line with the national HSE Paediatric Model of Care; - in an integrated approach with Cork University Hospital, to support children requiring specialised diabetes care in Kerry.

Yours sincerely,



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**Fearghal Grimes**  
General Manager  
University Hospital Kerry