



**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas**

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2nd December 2022

Mr Thomas Pringle, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: thomas.pringle@oireachtas.ie

**PQ 57237/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health the reason that all early intervention speech and language therapy has been removed from the Ballymun area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” –
Thomas Pringle, TD**

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Early Intervention Service continues to be provided through Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNT). Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNT) were established in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (CHO DNCC) on 20th September 2021, under the Progressing Disability Services programme. The CDNT supports children with complex needs living within a defined catchment area. Each CDNT supports children from 0-18 years. As a national programme it also means every family will have an easy to identify pathway to access services, have fair access to services and each CDNT uses the same model of care.

The CDNT model of service delivery centres on outcomes for children and families rather than inputs. The focus is on the goals that children and families may meaningfully aim to achieve at home, and steps they may take together with the CDNT, rather than numbers of sessions of therapies such as speech and language, occupational therapy or others. CDNTs have implemented a fundamental shift to an authentic child and family centred model where the parents, carers and their children are empowered to set and achieve their own goals, while also being supported by the CDNT. Ultimately, the benefit of this shift is; families are empowered to support their children in belonging and participating actively in their own family and community alongside their peers. This model in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Children and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability.

CDNT’s in CHO DNCC continue to work towards improved access to services, with a focus on rolling out universal and targeted care pathways for children and families who are on the waiting lists. This includes developing webinars, group-based workshops, information sessions and the development of a repository of online resources to promote and enable wellbeing at home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability