

29th November, 2022

Mr Sean Sherlock, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 57542/22

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of early intervention places available in an area (details supplied) in County Cork."

Details supplied: Fermoy Mitchelstown Area in Co Cork.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

Prior to reconfiguration in April 2021, children with two significant and ongoing needs attended the Early Intervention Teams from birth up to five and a half years of age. After this age, they were referred to Primary Care Services as indicated for intervention relevant to their needs. In that instance, team based interventions were not being provided.

It may be helpful if I provide some information at the outset about the current service arrangements between the HSE and other independent providers. Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS) is a significant change programme for the provision of therapeutic services for children from birth to 18 years of age.

PDS requires pooling together all resources, including staff, facilities and equipment, from the different voluntary agencies and the HSE providing specialist children's disability services, in order to set up Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). A CDNT comprises of a team of health and social care professionals who will provide services for a specific geographical area aligning to the Community Healthcare Networks. All teams are in place since April 2021 and there are 14 CDNTs across Cork and Kerry. The Fermoy/Mitchelstown area is managed by CDNT 5 and St Joseph's Foundation are the lead agency for this team.

A child's access to services is based on his/her needs, i.e. a diagnosis is not required. Instead of a service providing for children with one type of disability only, resulting in some children unable to access a service, each CDNT provides for all children with complex needs arising from their disability who live in that area. Children with non-complex needs receive services at Primary Care level.

Please find attached Information Leaflet on how to access services for Children and Young People with Disability and Developmental Delay in North Cork for your information. The postal address for CDNT 4 is Floor 1, Blackwater House, Gouldhill, Mallow, Co. Cork P51 K3CX.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

Enc: Leaflet Child Services Cork North