



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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21st November 2022.

Mr. Darren O'Rourke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question: 49986/22

To ask the Minister for Health the current average waiting times for each of the Children's Disability Network Teams in CHO8.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

I refer to your correspondence referenced above and I outline Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation response below:

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. It is being rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. 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 provide a range of different supports in an interdisciplinary way. This means that the professionals on the team work together with the child and family. Waiting lists are not kept for individual disciplines as this does not reflect the nature of the support provided for children with complex needs.

The CDNTs are currently reviewing all children within the service and in the process of planning and delivering on Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for children within the service. An IFSP is an Individual Family Support Plan and is developed by the family, child and the members of the CDNT. It guides how the team supports the child. This is a process which requires getting to know the child and their needs (if not already known), preparing the family to create the IFSP and the development of the document along with the development of the supports to address the identified goals which include universal, targeted, and individual supports. Each IFSP is estimated to take up to 12 clinical hours across 2-3 staff to develop over a period of 6 weeks. This does not include the supports delivered after the IFSP to meet the goals and priorities identified. The information provided below is based on September 2022 caseload analysis.

Waiting Times Children's Disability Network Team:

The wait times outlined below are based on **Initial Contact of new referrals** - this has been defined as a meeting which includes (1) providing an orientation to the service; (2) profiling parental priorities for their child/family; (3) achieving a better understanding of a child's needs; (4) based on parental priorities & informed by observations, developing some agreed initial goals; (5) providing guidance on strategies specific to the agreed initial goals that parents can use immediately; & (6) facilitating completion of initial IFSP within six weeks. During this period, the CDNT may contribute to a shared understanding of a child's needs via, for example, informal observation in natural environments; administration of screening procedures; & discussion with the child & their family. To qualify as a 'case,' while each child does not have to meet all of the above 6 definition elements of an 'initial contact' (e.g., had an IFSP completed within six weeks), their initial contact had to be meaningful in that it added value to understanding &/or addressing a child's needs. Hence, this metric captures those children who were being provided a service, whether that was working on an IFSP, or waiting for or receiving an intervention as informed by a child's IFSP.



Caseload is agreed as being "since reconfiguration" and will include all children & families "who have had a meaningful contact"

<u>CDNT1</u>	<u>CDNT2</u>	<u>CDNT3</u>	<u>CDNT4</u>	<u>CDNT5</u>	<u>CDNT6</u>	<u>CDNT7</u>	<u>CDNT8</u>	<u>CDNT9</u>	<u>CDNT10</u>	<u>CDNT11</u>	<u>CDNT12</u>
9 mths	13 mths	12 mths	9.5 mths	8 mths	11 mths	10 mths	12 mths	11 mths	12 mths	11 mths	10 mths

Note:

- **Waiting Times of new referrals for initial contact based on October 2022 Metrics.**
- **Numbers of children registered with CDNT's based on September 2022 Caseload Monthly Analysis.**

Louth – CDNT 1 & 3

In Louth there are two (2) Children’s Disability Network Teams, namely CDNT 1 (covering Castlebellingham, Dundalk and Carlingford areas) and CDNT 3 (covering Drogheda, Dunleer, Clogherhead and Bettystown areas).

CDNT 1 there are currently approximately 756 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 723 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

CDNT 3 there are currently approximately 856 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 522 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

Meath – Network 2,4,5,6 (Networks 4&5 Enable Ireland lead agency)

In Meath there are four (4) Children’s Disability Network Teams, namely CDNT 2 (covering Kells, Oldcastle, North Meath), CDNT 4 (covering Ashbourne, Duleek, Dunshaughlin, Laytown, Bettystown, Ratoath), CDNT 5 (covering Navan & Slane) and CDNT 6 (covering Athboy, Dunboyne, Enfield, Summerfield, Trim)

CDNT 2 there are currently approximately 595 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 246 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

CDNT 4 there are currently approximately 1109 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 857 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

CDNT 5 there are currently approximately 781 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 525 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

CDNT 6 there are currently approximately 810 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 500 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Longford/Westmeath – Networks 7,8,& 9

In Longford/Westmeath there are three (3) Children’s Disability Network Teams, namely CDNT 7 (covering Delvin, Kilgeggan, Kinnegad, Mullingar & North Westmeath), CDNT 8 (covering Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Longford) CDNT 9 (covering Athlone, Fermoy & Moate)

CDNT 7 there are currently approximately 1072 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 742 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.



CDNT 8 there are currently approximately 734 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 406 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

CDNT 9 there are currently approximately 600 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 366 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Laois Offaly – Networks 10,11 & 12)

In Laois and Offaly there are three (3) Children’s Disability Network Teams, namely CDNT 12 (covering Portlaoise, Stradbally, Mountrath, Borris in Ossary, Abbeyleix and Ballickmoyler), CDNT 11 (covering Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Edenderry) and CDNT 10 (covering Banagher, Birr, Clara, Daingean, Shinrone and Tullamore).

In CDNT 10 there are currently approximately 1205 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 833 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

In CDNT 11 there are currently approximately 708 children who are registered with team of which an estimated 325 children with complex needs will require an IFSP.

In CDNT 12 there are currently approximately 834 children who are registered with the team. It is estimated 453 children with complex needs will require an IFSP within the model of service.

Children with non-complex needs will likely not receive an IFSP, but will require Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) supports.

There are some children where the complexity of needs has not been confirmed and the CDNT’s are planning to make contact with these families to further understand their needs.

Whilst waiting on provision of an IFSP, children can be provided some other Universal Supports inputs prior to this date depending on the need (Universal Supports are first line of input in format of groups, team facilitation, standardised parent workshops etc. MLM CHO are currently developing waitlist initiatives which families can avail of while awaiting their IFSP.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation