



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,
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14th October 2022

Deputy Gary Gannon,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: gary.gannon@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Gannon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 50378/22

To ask the Minister for Health if any national guidelines and circulars or other written instructions related to best practice exist in relation to the way that individual CDNTs should operate services and waiting lists for the two different pathways of children (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: children who were on existing disability services waiting lists such as early intervention, school age teams and in many cases, not receiving any services and waiting for many years versus children going through the AON process since services were reconfigured, some of which may have highly complex needs

PQ: 50379/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline information in relation to newly established collaborative efforts between HSE children's disability services and education to examine if services to children with complex additional needs and their families has been rolled out in all up and running CDNTs to date; and when and how such a collaboration will be evaluated in the future.

HSE Response

Ninety-one multidisciplinary Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established to provide services and supports for all children with complex disability needs within a defined geographic area.

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 attached Policy Framework for Service Delivery of CDNTs (Oct '21) provides details of and links to the various policies supporting the delivery of CDNT services. Of particular relevance is the National Policy on Prioritisation of Referrals to CDNTs. This policy provides detail on the process for



categorising referrals as “urgent” or “non-urgent” as well as direction on the management of waiting lists.

Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005) provides a legislative timeframe for the completion of an Assessment of Need. In this regard, CDNTs must manage Assessment of Need referrals to facilitate compliance with the legislative timeframes. Waiting lists for intervention and follow up supports are prioritised based on clinical need and the date of referral.

With regard to collaborative efforts between HSE children's disability services and education, the National Education and Health Collaborative Forum which has been in place for a number of years, comprises membership at a senior level from the HSE, National Council for Special Education and National Educational Psychological Service.

This group supports strong collaborative working between the health and education sectors and is guiding the establishment of Education and Health Fora at a local level. To date, local fora have been established in three CHO areas and it is intended that other areas will progress before the end of 2022.

The establishment and operation of local fora will be monitored and evaluated by the National Education and Health Collaborative Forum.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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