



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Bhaile Átha Cliath Láir Thuaidh
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9,
DO9 C8P5

General Manager Primary Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North Central
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9,
DO9 C8P5.

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)
t 01 846 7195
e gm.dnc@hse.ie

Ms. Emer Higgins TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

26th October 2022

PQ 51027/22 – *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the role of the new children’s multi-disciplinary assessment hub in Castleknock, Dublin 15; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* – **Emer Higgins TD**

Dear Deputy Higgins,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (CHO DNCC) is setting up a new child assessment multi-disciplinary team (MDT) which will be based in the Castleknock Health Facility, Castleknock, Dublin D15ED74.

Following implementation of the National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People, a number of children with autism are due to receive assessment and intervention services in primary care, through a range of Health & Social Care Professionals (HSCPs). The Primary Care Child Autism Assessment Team (PCAT) will provide specialist MDT autism assessments for children who are working with primary care HSCPs and require a specialist assessment. The clinical team consists of one Working Time Equivalent (WTE) each of senior occupational therapist, senior psychologist, and senior speech & language therapist. The team also has support from one WTE coordinator and administrator. Children will still be eligible for intervention in primary care while on the waiting list for assessment in PCAT.

The HSE’s overall plan for autism assessment is detailed in the 2021 Autism Assessments & Interventions Pathway Protocol document (attached), which recommends a tiered approach to assessments. PCAT will offer assessments at Tiers 2 & 3 from the protocol. It will also offer consultative advice and support to HSCPs in primary care offering Tier 1 assessments in community healthcare networks.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Fitzgerald
General Manager
Dublin North Central
Primary Care