



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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2nd November 2022

Deputy Mattie McGrath,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: mattie.mcgrath@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

PQ: 52321/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting to access child development services with the Brothers of Charity in County Tipperary; the number of child development services places available to pre-school children in County Tipperary; the supports that are available for children who cannot access pre-school childcare due to their disability and lack of appropriate services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Access and Inclusion Model

The Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Supporting Access to the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme for Children with a Disability sets out a clear vision for a comprehensive, child-centred model of supports which will ensure that children with disabilities can access and meaningfully participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme in mainstream pre-school settings.

This model, entitled the Access and Inclusion Model or AIM, involves seven levels of progressive support, moving from universal to highly targeted based on the strengths and needs of both the child and the pre-school.

AIM supports are provided through the ECCE programme. Where universal supports are not enough to meet the needs of an individual child, targeted supports are available to ensure the child can meaningfully participate in pre-school. In addition to targeted and universal supports, AIM also provides universal design guidelines for Early Learning and Care settings and AIM Inclusive Play resources.

Children's Disability Network Teams

In line with the Progressing Disability Services model, resources assigned to children's disability services are allocated to the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs); 91 CDNTs are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

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.

Each CDNT is managed by a lead agency. Although the Brothers of Charity is the lead agency for a number of CDNTs across Community Healthcare Areas 2, 3 and 4, it is not a lead agency for any of the CDNTs in County Tipperary.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

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

