



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

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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11th October, 2022

Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re Parliamentary Question - 43059/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in CHO8 who are currently waiting to access the child disability network team in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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 is being rolled out across the CHO and this will mean a change in how services are being provided to children with disability.

Waiting lists are not kept for individual disciplines as this does not reflect the nature of the support provided for children with complex needs. There will be one multi-disciplinary team which will provide a more integrated model of service delivery.

The Children Disability Network Teams (CDNT) 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.

Louth – Network 1 & 3

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

In Network 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.



In Network 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 Network 2 (covering Kells, Oldcastle, North Meath), Network 4 (covering Ashbourne, Duleek, Dunshaughlin, Laytown, Bettystown, Ratoath), Network 5 (covering Navan & Slane) and Network 6 (covering Athboy, Dunboyne, Enfield, Summerfield, Trim)

In Network 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.

In Network 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.

In Network 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.

In Network 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 Network 7 (covering Delvin, Kilgeegan, Kinnegad, Mullingar & North Westmeath), Network 8 (covering Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Longford) Network 9 (covering Athlone, Fermoy & Moate)

In Network 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.

In Network 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.

In Network 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 Network 12 (covering Portlaoise, Stradbally, Mountrath, Borris in Ossary, Abbeyleix and Ballickmoyler), Network 11 (covering Mountmellick, Portarlinton and Edenderry) and Network 10 (covering Banagher, Birr, Clara, Daingean, Shinrone and Tullamore).

In Network 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 Network 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 Network 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 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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style.

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