



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,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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7th March 2023

Deputy Alan Farrell,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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: 10022/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider nominating a keyworker for schools from the children's disability teams to ensure the student is supported at school as efficiently as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (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.

Work is ongoing on mapping specialised services and supports, and paediatric supports available and gap analysis for children with highly complex needs, in order to develop standardised approaches to integrated pathways of support for CDNTs and Primary Care staff.

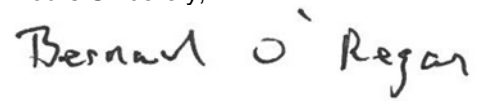
CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

With regard to keyworkers for schools, the attached document outlines the role of the key worker / key contact on CDNTs. This guidance was issued to all CDNTs in September 2022 and describes the role of a Key Worker or Key Contact for children and families accessing the teams.

Each child's Key Contact will assist the family to access supports from the CDNT and also support engagement with other stakeholders such as school or pre-school staff.

The HSE remains committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children with disabilities and working with families and staff to develop services that meet their needs.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small 'i' over the 'r' in "Regan".

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