



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

Campas Gnó Shoird,
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord, Co.
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Éircód K67 X3Y9

Head of Service
Disability Services DNCC

Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X3Y9

t 01 8131 820
e Headofservicedisability.dncc@hse.ie

3rd March 2023

Mr Alan Farrell, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 10029/23 *"To ask the Minister for Health the reasoning behind establishing the family forums within the CDNT; the evidence his Department has that they are effective in communicating with families; and if he will make a statement on the matter."* **Alan Farrell, TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in Community Health Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) commenced in late September 2021. This model of service sees a family set and achieve their own goals, supported by an interdisciplinary team. The ultimate goal of this approach is to enable children to flourish at home and in their communities. The focus of the CDNT service delivery is child and family centred, enabling the child and family to carry out exercises and activities at home that may enhance their family life. In this regard, CDNTs often bring groups of children and groups of parents together to learn new skills and mix with each other in person or through digital platforms, which is convenient for many families. Family members learn how to support their child's development at home, as part of their everyday life and based on evidence across the world, which has formed the framework of the CDNT working models. The CDNTs operate to a specified national governance structure. Central to this structure is the voice of families.

Families will be involved at an individual level when formulating the Integrated Family Services Plan (IFSP) for their child. Families will also be involved at Local Network Family Forum. Two family representatives from each Family Forum will meet with other Family Forum representatives across CHO Dublin North City and County at a Family Representative Group and representatives from this group will participate on the Operational Management Group and Children's Disability Network Team Governance Group. The Forum provides a dedicated space for families to discuss general issues with their Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) and to receive CDNM feedback on issues and ideas previously discussed and on service developments at team, CHO and National HSE Disabilities levels. It facilitates relationship building between the CDNM and families, an important component to supporting children and families in achieving their best outcomes possible, and the service making the best use of resources available to it.

The Family Forums will support communication, engagement and co-design of services. As outlined in the Guidance Document: Setting up and Sustaining Family Forums:

“Co-design is an approach to designing with, not for, people...it typically works best where people with lived experience, communities and professionals work together to improve something they all care about.”

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability