



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

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Deputy Robert Troy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 10142/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the services that are in place in County Westmeath for children with autism when they reach 18 years of age – Robert Troy**

Dear Deputy Troy,

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 I outline the position as follows.

Please see below details regarding HSE services that are in place in Longford/Westmeath for children with a moderate severe/profound ID and or ASD when they reach 18 years of age.

HSE Disability services have a range of community based services which is subject to assessed individual needs and the needs of their families. The services will be offered in line with availability, capacity and suitability. Referrals are accepted by disciplines within the HSE, self-referral or other agencies.

**Models of supports include:**

**Day service provision:** When an individual is leaving school and is assessed as requiring HSE funded day services a referral is made to the HSE Day Opportunity Team. Young people and their families are provided with guidance on the best possible options based on the outcomes of the profiling assessment and their need. The day service can commence upon the child reaching 18 years of age.

**Community Supports:** Day respite and Outreach support funded by HSE and delivered by HSE governed services or HSE funded private agencies. Community supports includes programmes and supports specifically targeted towards the inclusion and active participation of service users in mainstream community programmes and activities. This includes participation in educational opportunities, sport and recreation involvement, social events, local partnership projects and advocacy initiatives. A range of supports that promote and facilitate inclusion are provided to individuals and groups, such as accessing services, liaison, planning, co-ordinating and supporting attendance and active participation by service users.



**Home Sharing/Share a break:** model of service provided by Muiriosa Foundation. A home sharing - shared living registered family provides full-time care to a person with a disability in their home in the community and cares for that person as a member of their family on a permanent arrangement (with short breaks to another home sharing family or the person's own family if necessary). A Share a Break placement can be afternoons, days, overnights, weekends or holidays. It is based on what the person with an intellectual disability wants and what the Host Family can provide.

**Peer support:** Peer support is help provided by a person with a disability to people with disabilities, who has attained disability-related experiences, knowledge, and coping skills, and helps other people with disabilities and their significant others to cope with disability-related experiences. Peer Support Workers are people who are interested in helping others; by listening empathetically, sharing their experiences and offering suggestions. Peer Support Workers are uniquely able to help others like themselves.

**Supported Living services:** Home support provides personal and/or essential care and support to facilitate participation in social/leisure activities. It includes home support, home care assistant service, and home help. Home support is a disability-funded service (directly by the HSE or through a HSE funded private provider) and is often provided outside of normal day service hours.

**Other Supports:**

- Allied health professionals: e.g. Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Behaviour supports, Social Work and Physiotherapy.
- Mental Health Intellectual Disability Services.
- Case Management and Liaison Officer Support.
- HIQA Residential respite.
- HIQA Residential services.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

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