



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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2nd March 2023

Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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: 6759/23

To ask the Minister for Health if she is satisfied that available therapeutic resource for children with special needs is properly allocated between completing assessments and delivering therapeutic services; and if she will indicate the key performance targets for the new disability networks, and their capacity to achieve them.

HSE Response

There are ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) providing services for children with complex disability needs.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). Each team is managed by a Children's Disability Network Manager. The Children's Disability Network Manager is the accountable and responsible person for ensuring the allocation of the available resources and the delivery of high quality, safe, integrated children's disability services to the population of the Community Healthcare Network. They provide day to day operational line management for the staff on their teams.

Clinicians working on CDNTs undertake assessments, reviews and provide interventions for children on their caseloads.

Undertaking clinical assessments, either from direct referral to the CDNTs or following a request from an Assessment Officer as part of the legislative Assessment of Need (AON) process, is an integral function of the everyday work of all clinical staff on CDNTs. Team clinicians allocate their time between assessments and interventions based on a number of factors, including the legislative requirement of AON under the Disability Act 2005, the National Prioritisation Policy for CDNTs, their clinical judgement, caseload management and current service demands.



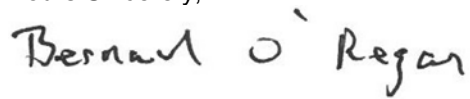
Standardised Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Governance structure and processes are in place to ensure consistency and quality of services across all CDNs in line with the National PDS Programme, policy and guidance. The attached "*CHO Governance of Children's Disability Network Services*" document outlines the standardised approach across CHOs, and includes a review process to be led nationally in partnership with CHOs.

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

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

Roll out of the National Children's Disability Network Team Information Management System (CDNTIMS) has commenced this month and will be fully implemented across all 91 CDNTs by the end of this year. The CDNTIMS will provide detailed information on service demands and team performance on the key performance targets and other details for all CDNTs.

Yours Sincerely,



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

