



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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23rd January 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 2555/23

To ask the Minister for Health if each of the 91 CDNTs have established a family forum; the number of these family forums that have held a meeting with their children's disability network manager; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 2556/23

To ask the Minister for Health if a family representative group has been established in each of the nine community healthcare organisations; if a children's disability network governance group has been established in each CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

In Children's Disability Services, resources are assigned to the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). 91 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.

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). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the expressions of interest process.

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.

In 2021, the *National CHO Governance OF Children's Disability Network Services* (see link to same below), was implemented across all CHOs to provide a standardised governance for all Children's Disability Network services. This includes the establishment of Family Forums, 1 per Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT), to which family members and carers of all children attending or waitlisted for CDNTs will be invited to attend. Thus, the membership of each Family Forum will be fluid.

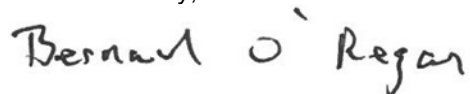
This forum will be independently facilitated and the Children's Disability Network Manager will participate actively with families in the meeting. The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for families to discuss general issues and ideas about the children's disability services in the network, to network with other families and to work with the CDN on co designing service improvements.

Each Family Forum will nominate 2 Family Representatives to join the CHO CDN Family Representatives Group from which 3 Family Representatives will be nominated to participate on the CHO's CDN Governance Group. Work to establish these groups is on-going and is a priority. The progress to date is outlined in the table below.

To date, 26 Family Forums have been established and met at least once and a further 56 in the process of being set up. Two CHOs are now establishing their CHO CDN Family Representatives Groups. Other Forums have yet to complete their Family Representatives election process. A training session for Independent Facilitators is being hosted by the HSE this week and this aspect will be one of the primary focus points to ensure all Family Representative Groups are established by end of Q2 2023.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/documents/community-healthcare-organisation-governance-of-children-s-disability-network-service.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



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

