



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,
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3rd February 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 question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 4612/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will detail the communication and feedback process that is in place between the managers of children's disability network teams and staff in these teams conducting assessments of need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 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.

Children do not need an Assessment of Need (Disability Act 2005) to access these teams. Parents can refer their children directly to a CDNT. Clinicians working on CDNTs will undertake assessments, reviews and provide interventions for children on their caseloads.

An Assessment of Need is a separate legislative process provided for under Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005). Information on this process is available at www.hse.ie/aon .

Assessment Officers are independent, therefore they are not linked to any CDNT or other service provider.



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 process, is an integral function of the everyday work of all clinical staff on CDNTs.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop for the letter 'O'.

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

