



National Director, Community Operations  
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8  
Tel: 01 6352596 Email: communityoperations@hse.ie

Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8  
T 01 6352596 R: communityoperations@hse.ie

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 14482/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if there is a policy in relation to shared care between children's disability network teams, child and adolescent mental health services and primary care; if so, who oversees its implementation; if this body produces a report on the implementation of this policy for him; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 14483/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if, children's disability network teams, child and adolescent mental health services and primary care are mandated to work together in relation to the shared care of children with issues pertaining across all these services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Pauline Tully**

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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Joint Protocol Primary Care, Disability and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, September 2017 recommends that a co-operative and collaborative culture between Primary Care, Disability and Child and Adolescent Health Services must be promoted.

An important aspect of this joint working is that all services facilitate children accessing the appropriate service as early as possible to prevent multiple referrals and/or re-referrals in order to facilitate timely access to appropriate support.

The Primary Care, Children's Disability and Child and Adolescent Mental health services aim to make the referral process as seamless and timely as possible by collaborating to provide comprehensive information to families and other referrers and by communication with all relevant parties effectively and efficiently. When information indicates that there is more than one service which could best meet the child's needs, consultation should take place with the other service to determine which is the most appropriate and whether a joint approach is indicated.

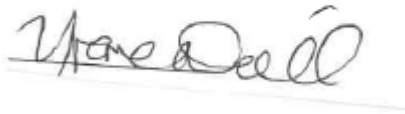
An Integrated Children's Services Forum (ICSF) in each area provides a formal, regular mechanism for services to meet and discuss the individual children whose needs are not clear or who may require some level of joint assessment or intervention and for whom direct consultation between the relevant services has not led to a decision on the best arrangement for the child.

In situations where differences arise in relation to the management of a case and a local joint decision cannot be agreed, the practitioners must make every effort to resolve them so that the appropriate interventions can proceed. Where this cannot be agreed, the matter must be escalated by the Chair of the ICSF to the relevant CHO Head of Service.

The Chief Officers of each CHO will take responsibility to implement this protocol at operational level and a joint National Oversight Group was convened to oversee the implementation of the protocol.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne O'Neill', is written over a thin horizontal line.

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Yvonne O'Neill  
National Director  
Community Operations