



**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,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Cairns,

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: 26732/22**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will clarify whether a young person who has reached the age of 18 years but is still in school must transition from disability child services to disability adult services.*

**HSE Response**

Disability Services provided for people with disabilities, including young adults transitioning to adult services, includes Day Services, Respite Services, Personal Assistant, Home Support, Residential Care and other supports and services.

Disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of an individual rather than by the diagnosis of the individual or the actual type of disability. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the person's individual requirements and service needs.

**The National Access Policy to CDNT and Primary Care services**

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs i.e. Primary Care for non-complex functional difficulties and Children's Disability Network Teams for complex functional difficulties. Children may access supports from a Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) or from Primary Care depending on the complexity of their needs.

This policy applies to all children with disabilities referred for CDNT or Primary Care services. Children already in service who transferred under reconfiguration, will transfer from their existing service, be that Primary Care or CDNT, to the other service (CDNT or PC), only where it is determined the more appropriate service to meet their needs as defined in the National Access Policy.



There are ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) providing services for children with complex disability needs aged 0 – 18 years.

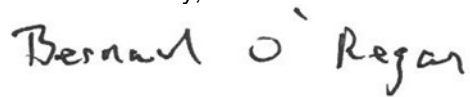
Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist 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.

Please see the attached National Policy on Discharge/Closure and Transfer from Children's Disability Network Teams.

Section 5.1 (Reasons for Discharge/Closure) states that *"a service for a child may be finished because: The young person has reached the age of 18 years, or has completed second level school if later and service was extended to his or her 19th birthday to meet specific needs"*

Sections 5.3 and 5.4 outlines the planning process for smooth transition to another service.

Yours Sincerely,



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

