



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 November 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: 49093/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the timeframe for the delivery of the Disability Regional Enhanced Supports and Services (DRESS).

HSE Response

Substantial work has been undertaken by the HSE to develop a Roadmap for Service Improvement for Disability Services for Children and Young People which was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and was launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

The Roadmap includes as follows:

Disability Regional Enhanced Supports and Services (DRESSs)

The National Clinical Programme for People with Disability has developed a framework for the delivery of Disability Regional Enhanced Supports and Services (DRESSs) to facilitate access to specialised supports and services for children with disabilities. These services will in-reach to support CDNTs and CHNs through education, supervision, and interventions for children with exceptionally complex presentations. Now approved by the Chief Clinical Officer, we will progress the planning and implementation of this framework and associated pathways.

In the short term, capacity within the service is being built through:

- Establishing SEED (Sharing Experience and Expertise in Disability) centres, as virtual interconnected national networks of practice - in Motor Management and Feeding Eating Drinking and Swallowing (FEDS).
- Development and delivery of educational support in Motor Management and FEDs to CDNTs and CHNs.



- Implementing the Collaborative Proactive Solutions approach, a team-based capacity-building to manage complex behaviour, as a demonstration across eight CDNTs in two CHOs, with potential for national rollout pending a successful Estimates application.
- Establishing a national specialised service to support CDNTs and CHNs in the management of children with visual difficulties and who may have co-occurring complex disabilities.
- Establishing a national interdisciplinary team to support CDNTs and CHNs in the management of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and who may have co-occurring complex disabilities
- In collaboration with the Clinical Programme in Paediatrics and Neonatology, recruiting two consultant paediatricians in 2023 and a further one in 2024 with a special interest in neurodisability and 80% of their time in community to support CDNTs and specialised service pathways
- Continuing to review, improve and develop where needed, integrated specialised service and support pathways for children with disabilities, including those with complex neurological conditions, within the CDNT programme framework.

Current Status

The framework for the delivery of Disability Regional Enhanced Supports and Services (DRESSs) has been circulated to all the CHOs, Chief Officers, Heads of Service Disabilities and Lead Agencies CEOs.

There was a delay on the dissemination of the documents due to the pause of the NCPPD programme.

The specialised services supports to Children's Disability Services Framework and Pathways documents approved by the Chief Clinical Officer are now available for progress on the planning and implementation of this framework and associated pathways.

The documents describe key features of Disability Regional Enhanced Supports Services (DRESS's) which are common across a range of specialised services and supports for children with disabilities.

Features specific to specialised pathways are described in the specific DRESS documents relating to them. Currently DRESS documents have been developed for Complex Behaviour; Motor Management and Feeding, Eating, Drinking and Swallowing (FEDS).

The NCPPD is creating services that contribute to realising human rights, affirm the value and strengths of neurodiversity and learn from the living experience of people with disabilities.

The Disability Regional Enhanced Supports Services (DRESS) will be available in each of the 6 Regional Health Authorities, and at the national level will be supported by Sharing Experience and Expertise in Disability (SEED) Centres.

SEEDs will be networked Centres including expertise across the country comprised of service users, practitioners, researchers, and educators, bringing together essential but often disparate knowledge, in one virtual 'centre', often with several physical locations, but working collaboratively.

This framework of documents builds on the previous HSE "Guidance for Specialist Supports 2016", updates it, and strengthens it in the context of recent developments in Children's Disability Services.

Ultimately, the responsibility for service delivery for each region currently falls under CHO governance and the structures and service arrangements agreed within regions and between agencies.

CHO governance structures for PDS are outlined in "Community Health Organisation of Governance of Children's Disability Network Services" and the "Inter Agency Agreement" provides further detail on interagency working arrangements.

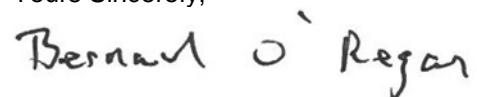


The identification of pathways to specialised services and supports are the responsibility of CHOs and the structures outlined therein.

The Regional Heads of Services (all care groups), Clinical Advisory Group, CDNM Operational Management Group, Lead and Partner agencies, Heads of Therapy, Clinical Specialist/Leads, providers of tertiary specialist services and family fora will be key stakeholders here.

As Regional Health Areas and new integrated governance structures evolve, the NCPPD recommends that DRESS structures are aligned to this context. DRESS pathways require an integrated and coordinated approach to service delivery between different care groups. The most effective overarching governance of these services, taking a population based view of needs, will be best served through integrated governance oversight.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

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

