



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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Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

16th 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 questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 49094/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will share with this Deputy the revised guidance for Individual Family Support Plans and Guidance for CDNTs.

PQ: 49102/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a webinar has been delivered to each Childrens Disability Network Manager on establishing a Family Representative Group; and if not, which CDNMs have not yet had this delivered.

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (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).

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 allocation of the available resources and 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.

There is one Family Forum per Children's Disability Network Team, to which family members and carers of all children attending or waitlisted for CDNTs will be invited to participate in. Thus, the membership of each Family Forum will be fluid.



This forum is independently facilitated and the Children's Disability Network Manager (CDNM) 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 CDNM on co designing service developments and improvements.

Each Family Forum nominates 2 Family Representatives to join the CHO CDN Family Representatives Group from which 2 Family Representatives will be nominated to participate on the CHO's CDN Governance Group.

69 of the 91 Family Forum and 5 of the 9 Family Representative Groups are now in place.

It is important to note that the Family Representative Groups (FRG) is facilitated by an independent facilitator and the CDNMs do not generally attend this group.

With regard to the question asked, the HSE confirms that webinars have taken place and will continue on an as needed basis identified by the CDNMs.

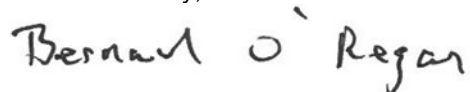
There has been a Face to Face Learning event for all Childrens' Disability Network Managers (CDNMs) to share the experience of early adopters. This included those CDNMs who had already commenced their Family Forums.

In July 2023, there was an online event for all CDNMs again to share the experience of those now with 8 months experience of participating in repeated Family Forum events and their experience also of the Family Representatives Group (FRG).

In addition, 2 events February and October, were held for Family Forum and Family Representative Independent Facilitators, to share their collective experience across all Forums, driving consistency in approach and sustainability, and in turn their support for CDNMs in this area of family engagement

With regard to the request for a copy of the revised guidance for Individual Family Support Plans and Guidance for CDNTs, please find attached, as requested, the National Guidance for Children's Disability Network Teams on Individual Family Support Plans- Version 3.

Yours Sincerely,



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

