



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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13th October 2023

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

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: 42654/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of family forums that took place in 2022 as part of the Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People governance process.

HSE Response

Children's Disability Network Teams

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.

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.

Service Provision

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

Children with complex needs and their families are offered evidence informed universal strategies and targeted supports based on individual needs and available staffing resources as part of their therapeutic programme. In addition, they may need individual one to one interventions at different stages of their development based on individual and emerging needs.



CDNTs, in line with national PDS policy, offers services based on the child's individual needs and family priorities as identified in the child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) through a family centre practice model.

This model of service ensures that the supports provided are determined from family priorities, taking into account the factors relevant to each child. It recognises that each family has its own role, values, structures, beliefs and coping styles and it aims to strengthen families own abilities in dealing with their child's challenges. This approach is supported by national and international best practice.

In 2021, the *National CHO Governance OF Children's Disability Network Services* (see link to same below), was implemented across all CHOs to provide a standardised governance for all Children's Disability Network services. This includes the establishment of Family Forums, 1 per Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT), to which family members and carers of all children attending or waitlisted for CDNTs will be invited to attend. Thus, the membership of each Family Forum will be fluid.

This forum will be independently facilitated and the Children's Disability Network Manager 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 improvements.

Each Family Forum will nominate 2 Family Representatives to join the CHO CDN Family Representatives Group from which 3 Family Representatives will be nominated to participate on the CHO's CDN Governance Group. Work to establish these groups is on-going and is a priority. The progress to date is outlined in the table below.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/documents/community-healthcare-organisation-governance-of-children-s-disability-network-service.pdf>

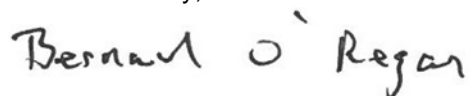
At the end of 2022, 26 Family Forums had been established and met at least once and a further 56 were in the process of being set up. Two CHOs were establishing their CHO CDN Family Representatives Groups. Other Forums were yet to complete their Family Representatives election process

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026

Following the HSE Board's approval of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026 on July 28th 2023, confirmation of its launch date by Government is pending. Government requested that the Roadmap is not circulated in advance of its launch. Thus, some key 'foundation' actions are on hold, however, a number of actions have been progressed in the interim. This includes work on developing the family Forums.

Currently 69 of 91 Family Forums: have commenced meeting, and in turn, 5 of 9 CHO **Family Representatives Groups** have commenced, and reps nominated onto the CHO CDNT Governance Group.

Yours Sincerely,



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

