



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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19th October 2023

Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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: 43530/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will outline the policy of the children's disability network teams for scheduling interventions for children in different age groups, aged two years and under, aged over two and under six, aged six and over, and so on; whether there has been a change in the way resources are allocated to different age groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

There are ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) providing services for children with complex disability needs from birth to 18 years of age. In some areas, for example where densely populated, the team may be divided into 2 services within the same team, such as from birth to 6 years of age and 7 to 18. Service provision and associated staffing allocation remains based on individual needs of the children.

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.

Clinicians working on CDNTs undertake assessments, reviews and provide interventions for children on their caseloads.

Team clinicians allocate their time between assessments and interventions based on a number of factors, including the legislative requirement of AON under the Disability Act 2005, the National

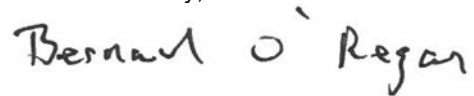


Prioritisation Policy for CDNTs, their clinical judgement, caseload management and current service demands.

Standardised Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Governance structure and processes are in place to ensure consistency and quality of services across all CDNs in line with the National PDS Programme, policy and guidance. The “*CHO Governance of Children’s Disability Network Services*” document outlines the standardised approach across CHOs, and includes a review process to be led nationally in partnership with CHOs.

The HSE remains committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children with disabilities and will continue to work with families and staff to develop services that meet their needs.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop for the letter 'R'.

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

