



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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2nd November 2023

Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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: 45514/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if the funding announced as part of Budget 2024 under Programme D - An Equal and Inclusive Society which states "Funding will primarily focus on additional therapy assistant posts, additional supports across a number of targeted children's services and on the expansion of educational programmes in this area" if these additional therapy assistant posts will be utilised in a school setting.

PQ: 45515/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if the funding announced as part of Budget 2024 under Programme D - An Equal and Inclusive Society which states "Funding will primarily focus on additional therapy assistant posts, additional supports across a number of targeted children's services and on the expansion of educational programmes in this area" to provide details of which educational programmes are to be expanded.

HSE Response

The "Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026

The "Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 - 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People" 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's 60 actions include a robust suite of CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, the majority of which are now in train



Assistant Therapists on site in Special Schools

The Roadmap includes a commitment to the provision of 50 Therapy Assistant posts that were approved in August 2023 - 14.5 of these posts have been allocated to specific Children's Disability Network Teams to provide supports into 6 special schools and recruitment is progressing on same. Interim plans are being implemented urgently to provide onsite therapy cover until the Therapy Assistant posts are filled.

The remaining 35.5 are being assigned to CHOs for allocation to specific teams based on a number of factors including current filled therapy posts, and the size and number of special schools in their geographical area.

In addition, the Minister of State Anne Rabbitte has convened a Disabilities Workforce Enhancement Group, including National Disability Operations Team and NCPPD representation, focused on the immediate, medium and longterm sustainability of Disabilities workforce, including CDNT

Estimates Process

Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for services including childrens' disability services as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

While Budget 2024 was announced by the Government on Tuesday 10 October September 2023, the HSE has not as yet received the Letter of Determination or the written/agreed National Service Plan for next year.

In that context, the HSE cannot provide further information at this stage as the Letter of Determination and the National Service Plan sets out the details regarding the delivery of services for the year.

Yours Sincerely,



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

