

4th April 2024
Deputy Maurice Quinlivan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: Maurice.quinlivan@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ/8658/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth when pupils at Le Cheile Primary school will receive access to counselling services or assessment of needs supports and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Quinlivan

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Primary Care Services do not provide counselling services to mainstream schools. In fact, there is no Primary Care Psychology Service provision dedicated to mainstream schools. Children can access community based Psychology Services via referral, based on clinical need. The National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) are responsible for supporting mainstream schools with learning, behaviour, social and emotional development of pupils. NEPS on behalf of the Department of Education are currently piloting a programme of counselling supports in Primary Schools.

“Assessment of Need (AON) supports” were also queried. The Disability Act 2005 provides for an assessment only of the needs of eligible applicants occasioned by their disability. A person must be born after 1st June 2002 to be eligible to apply for an AON, and the application for the assessment can be made by a parent, legal guardian or personal advocate.

I trust this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Fearghal Gray
A/Head of Service
Mid-West Disability Services
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare