



**Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,  
Caladh an Treoigh,  
Luimneach.

**Office of the Assistant National Director,**  
National Disability Team,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie](mailto: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 question<sup>3</sup>, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 34611/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a review of the current template for individual family support plans and guidance has taken place and revised guidance for CDNTs have been issued, in line with action 2.5 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.*

**PQ: 34612/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if monthly national CDNT metrics have been collated and published on the HSE website, in line with action 2.6 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.*

**PQ: 34613/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a service improvement function has been developed by the head of operations - disabilities to improve prioritisation and access to services for children and families, in line with action 2.8 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026..*

**PQ: 34614/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if each CHO area has developed a service improvement plan, in line with action 2.9 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.*

**PQ: 34615/24**



To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to detail the joint primary care, disability and CAMHS workshop that was hosted, in line with action 2.10 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.

**PQ: 34616/24**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of first interventions for CDNT-waitlisted children that were delivered in line with action 2.11 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026; and if the number of first interventions delivered were below, above or at the stated target of the 16,522 CDNT-waitlisted children.

**PQ: 34617/24**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the actions agreed from reviews of the interagency agreement and the CHO CDNT governance policy; and if these actions were implemented in line with action 2.12 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.

**PQ: 34618/24**

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to detail the findings of the review of access to aids and appliances for disabled people that was to be carried out under action 2.13 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.

**HSE Response**

**Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People**

The HSE’s Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People, approved by the HSE Board and launched by the Government and the HSE in October 2023 is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

It sets out the overall aim for Children’s Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

The Roadmap commenced implementation with the establishment of the Service Improvement Programme Board in February, followed with four Working Groups in March. Each group meets monthly and reports into the monthly a Service Improvement Programme Board every month which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group chaired by the Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte.

**With regard to the questions asked, please see the table below.**

2.5	Review of the individual Family Support Plan and Guidance was completed and reissued for CDNTs Jul'23 to CHOs following a webinar for dissemination to teams
2.6	Interim CDNT Metrics are returned monthly by CHOs for all CDNTs on 21 metrics. A new metric was added for August returns onwards on No of Waitlisted children who received CDNT supports this month. National Disabilities will deliver a webinar for CDNTs on Metric definitions Oct 3rd to drive consistency in data interpretations and quality of returns.
2.8	Service Improvement Function enhancement by National Childrens Disabilities Team.  This is being considered in light of reduced National Children's Disability staff and pending onboarding of 6 Health Region Services Improvement Leads to drive improvements and standardisation across all teams. Meanwhile, CHO Workshops and online CDNM webinars to spread good practices continue where resources permit, most recent on waiting list management and onboarding children onto caseload.
2.9	3 Roadmap Engagement Days were delivered in February for CHOs included workshops on development of CHOs Service Improvement Plan (SIP).



	Extensive staff feedback informed the activities ultimately agreed by Roadmap WGs. A standardised CHO Service Improvement Plan template was issued to CHOs in March. CHOs continue to work on developing their SIPs whilst progressing priorities i.e. AON and service provision with high vacancies, and implementation of the National Access Policy and Primary Care, Disability, CAMHS Joint Protocol.
2.10	Hosting Primary Care, Disability, CAMHS workshop on integrated plan for implementation of National Access Policy and Joint Protocol: Integrated Childrens Services WG has evaluated existing data including staff feedback on good practice exemplars, is launching a staff survey in the coming weeks to source more detail from CDNT/Primary Care and CAMHS staff on what is working well, what is not, and their proposals to resolve the issues. Survey findings will inform workshops commencing in at Health Region level in Q4 2024.
2.11	Following extensive engagement with CDNMs, PDS Leads, Nat. CDNT Steering Group, CHO Engagement Workshops, WGs 2 Service Access and Improvement and WG 4 Communications on this action and draft Guidance, the SIP Board agreed that due to high risk of it causing insult to families rather than its intended purpose, it will be paused until other key activities are implemented first. These include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome pack for all new children and families referred to CDNTs</li> <li>- National Online Resources Platform: SIP Board has approved the development of a business case</li> <li>- Development common understanding of the Stages of a child's pathway into and through services beginning with when a child is onboarded from a CDNT wait list onto a CDNT caseload.</li> </ul>
2.12	Following review of the CHO CDNT Governance Policy and the Interagency Agreement, and their respective implementations, an 8 action plan was agreed between the HSE and other 11 Lead Agencies for implementation. The CHO CDNT Governance Policy was updated to reflect learnings from the review. The Interagency Agreement Review Group developed a set of Partnership Principles to underpin implementation of the IA, as an addendum to the IA. The 6 remaining actions are being implemented by the CHO CDNT Governance Groups.
2.13	This action is now being delivered by WHO under a Global Digital and Assistive Technology Initiative programme. MOU between WHO and Ireland is in place. Initial report on availability and gaps is anticipated by first half of next year .

The HSE is fully committed to the delivery of the Roadmap actions over the lifetime of the plan.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**National Disability Team**

