



**Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam  
Michumais - Lár na Tíre**

**FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre**

Ionad Sláinte, An Mhí Bóthar Ard, An  
Tulaigh Mhóir, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. R35 HP73

**General Manager of Disability Services –  
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17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mr. Micheál Carrigy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ ref 2620/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the funding that has been allocated to Longford to improve the service delivery for children with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Carrigy,

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 response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

**Respite Development Funding:**

Additional funding has been secured by HSE Longford / Westmeath Disability Services to provide additional overnight respite and community respite. In October, 2024 a new four bed overnight respite house opened in Longford with an additional two overnight respite beds due to become available to children with disability from the Longford / Westmeath area in the second quarter of 2025. In addition to overnight respite, there has been developments within community respite with the addition of a weekend day respite service for children from the Longford / Westmeath area.

**Therapies:**

The CDNT Longford and Central Westmeath continue to recruit into vacant positions aligned with the team allocation following reconfiguration of services in November 2021. Since November 2021 the allocation of clinical posts has been further resourced with the allocation of the following additional posts:

1. Assistant Psychology position
2. Occupational Therapy position
3. Senior Physiotherapy Position
4. Senior Medical Social work position.

**Accommodation:**

The Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) operate out of the Phoenix Centre, Longford providing services to children with complex disability needs. In terms of the physical structure

of the building, the team have secured funding to improve the clinical environment. Such initiatives have included:

- The redesign of a therapy room to a sensory space, with adapted flooring and wall covering, installation of specialised lighting system and interactive software to support families with medically complex babies and younger children to engage in a more appropriate and inviting therapeutic space.
- The team have secured funding for a specialised overhead ceiling tracking hoist and plinth to support the development of postural management pathway for children with physical disabilities and the development of CDNTs moulded seating pathway which has reduced waiting times for this highly specialised seating from 24 months to 6 weeks. The support is now delivered in the Phoenix Centre with CDNT Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists meaning that families no longer have to wait and travel to Central Remedial Clinic Dublin for support.
- Funding has been secured for changing bench and ceiling tracking hoist to adapt a bathroom on the first floor ensuring for the first time in this building that children of all abilities can use the bathroom when they attend for supports.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

**Elaine Mulvihill**  
**General Manager, Midlands Disability Services**