



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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HSE Dublin and Midlands

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4th March 2025

Mr William Aird T.D.,
Nutgrove
Abbeyleix Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 X827.

Re: PQ ref 8235/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to report on the waiting list for occupational therapy and speech and language therapy in Laois; the measures she is introducing to lower waiting times; and if she will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Aird,

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.

The National Programme called Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children and Young People is now implemented. The PDS model of service delivery is team focussed with functional family goals rather than blocks of intervention with individual disciplines as was the practice in the past. Therefore the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) are no longer keeping waiting lists for separate disciplines within the team as this does not reflect the nature of support provided for children with complex needs.

The CDNT is an interdisciplinary team which provides a more integrated model of service delivery which provides support based on the child's needs and goals identified within the child's Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) with the family. Where a specific need is identified, there may be a variety of supports to include universal, targeted, and/or individual supports. All of the targeted supports are aimed at reaching as many children and families as possible with relevant, evidence based information based on the child's identified needs, and also serves to provide parent-parent support and reduce waiting times for access to the supports provided by Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist. Most targeted supports also include individual support aimed to ensure the information is bespoke and applied to the child's circumstance.

Where needs change, families are provided with multiple ways to get in touch with the service to discuss these with the team.

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

Yours sincerely

Elaine Mulvihill
General Manager, Midlands Disability Services