



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras 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.

8th August 2025

Deputy Eoghan Kenny,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: eoghan.kenny@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 39521/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for an update on the Programme for Government commitment to examine the establishment of new clinical support apprenticeship roles within the disability sector, as of July 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

The 2025 Programme for Government states that the Government will examine the establishment of new clinical support apprenticeship roles within the disability sector.

In addition, each year of the HSE People Strategy 2025-2027 the HSE will create further entry-level opportunities to build the workforce, e.g. graduate sponsorship and apprenticeship programmes.

Please see:

<https://about.hse.ie/publications/hse-people-strategy-2025-to-2027/>

With regard to Disability Services, the Childrens Disability Network Teams and all Disability Services benefit from broader resourcing actions in the HSE Resourcing Strategy including increasing training places in Nursing and HSCPs (including Psychologists), apprenticeship programme development and delivery, and the development of tertiary programmes through Educational Training Boards.

Disability services, like all parts of the health sector, are operating in a fiercely competitive global race for talent where the supply globally falls well short of the demand. In addition to many other recruitment and retention initiatives, the HSE is also actively engaging in the development of apprenticeship programmes. This includes Action 3.15 of the Roadmap: A Social Worker Apprenticeship programme was launched in September 2024 with 12 places and a further 20 places in 2025. A Social Care Worker programme is under development. Tertiary programmes i.e. pathways under Education and Training Boards developed in 2024 included 123 places for Nursing with an additional 70 ID Nursing places expected in 2025. In addition, tertiary programmes are being considered for Occupational Therapy and Dietetics.



The HSE is seeking, as part of the 2026 estimates, specific funding for the apprenticeships within Disabilities sector.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration