



17th October 2025

Mr Robert O'Donoghue, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: robert.odonoghue@oireachtas.ie

PQ 53141/25 *"To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she is aware of the difficulties in transitioning from paediatric disability services and adult disability services, particularly the lack of transition planning; if she has any plans to implement an automatic referral scheme for people transitioning from paediatric to adult disability services; if there are any plans to provide a comprehensive outreach service to disabled persons and persons with additional needs, particularly in Balbriggan; and if she will make a statement on the matter."*
- Robert O'Donoghue, TD

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE Disability Services Integrated Health Area Dublin North County (IHA DNC) and Integrated Health Area Dublin North City & West (IHA DNCW) recognises that it is essential to support the transition of care between child and adult services.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) work with families to prepare for this change through Individual Family Support Planning, which includes goal setting, skills development and referral to appropriate adult services. Transition planning is recognised as a gradual process that supports young people and families to prepare for adulthood and lifelong wellbeing.

Many young people who access clinical inputs from CDNTs may also be in receipt of other paediatric clinical input and may appropriately be referred towards adult Primary Care teams or other adult clinical care services as they move towards adulthood. The Central Referrals Office in each Integrated Health Area assists in ensuring referrals are directed to the most suitable service.

The HSE Day Opportunities Team works closely with CDNTs to support seamless transfer to HSE-funded adult day services where this is the appropriate pathway.

Referrals for transition planning may be made from age 16 and families are invited to information sessions to meet local service providers, including those offering rehabilitative training.

The HSE acknowledges that pressures on adult clinical teams and service capacity can lead to delays in the transition process. Nonetheless, all referrals are prioritised based on individual need and the HSE remains committed to strengthening coordination between children's and adult services to support smoother and more consistent transitions for young people with disabilities.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability
Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West