



Seirbhís Míchumais

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir, Bloc B, Lárionad
Cathrach, An tSráid Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill
Mhantáin, A98 X329

Disability Service

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14th April 2022

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re PQ 10957/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health; the status of the ongoing concerns with the clinical services for pupils with ASD and intellectual disabilities in a school (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Details supplied: Ballyowen Meadows Special School, Loughlinstown.

Dear Carroll Mac Neill,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The principle of Progressing Disability Services (PDS), is that a child will require services/supports in their home, school or community at various stages in their life and services must adapt to be provided at the right time / right location, therefore it should not matter whether a family chose their home or school address for supports. Supports a child may require are not all required in the school.

For new pupils joining the school in the future, it will be parental choice if they wish to transfer their child’s clinical service from that of their home address to their school address. This can be considered by parents. Some new pupils may not require clinical services from the Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) and may access services from Primary Care.

CDNT is not a school based service. Children requiring clinical support(s) in school will be provided with such. This may occur in various formats i.e., targeted or direct supports, support to the school staff for example.

I acknowledge that many of the children attending Ballyowen Meadows have extreme complex needs. The CDNT model is that of an interdisciplinary team. We are actively working on the reduction in waiting times for clinical supports so that supports can be provided in a timely



manner. The CDNT is working well with the school and has commenced providing support and training to the school staff in terms of working with the children.

Clinical services require appropriate staffing resources and as such there is ongoing recruitment to ensure a full complement of staff on CDNT's.

Clinical services will be dependent on the needs of the child and the parental wishes.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anna Meegan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anna Meegan
General Manager, Disability Services