

## **Transfer of the Disability Services function from the DoH to the DCEDIY**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The Transfer of policy and funding responsibility for the Specialist Community Based Disability Services from the Department of Health to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, is a major change project impacting both Departments and the HSE itself. The HSE welcome the approach that has been taken by members of the respective teams to date to ensure that the Transfer planning is undertaken with a view to minimising any impact on the delivery of essential services to disabled people, while at the same time ensuring the appropriate information exchanges and briefings are completed.

This Transfer creates the potential for significant focus to drive the improvements that are necessary to realise the ambitions of UNCRPD and to continue the reform programmes already underway through Transforming Lives.

The challenges we will face as we work towards the end of March, to ensure a smooth transfer, include:

1. Completing financial and other due diligence to identify and incorporate disability cost and budget
2. Agreeing content of MOU to build on existing systems and processes for governance, financial and performance reporting
3. Agreeing mechanisms to ensure agreed funding is available, HR systems are in place and operational engagement processes are agreed
4. Minimising excessive demands on the system by maintaining a focus on what is viable
5. Ensuring the delivery of supports and services continues seamlessly through the transition with a view to building on current foundations to improve and develop services in line with UNCRPD

The Chief Operations Officer, is establishing internal structures, including appropriate internal governance, and a transfer team which will work with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth across a number of work streams to ensure the Transfer works well in the interests of all stakeholders.