



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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17th November 2023

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 48535/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason for the lack of engagement with stakeholders such as an organisation (details supplied) on the Roadmap for Service Improvement: Disability Services for Children and Young People 2023 – 2026.

Details supplied: The Irish Society for Chartered Physiotherapists.

HSE Response

The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme

The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme has been governed by a consultation and engagement process with all stakeholders, including service users and their families.

Substantial work has been undertaken by the HSE to develop the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People which included consultation with a wide group of stakeholders (Appendix 1). It reflects input from families, as reported from the 69 Family Forums now established across the country and family representatives on the National CDNT Steering Group and from PDS Leads/Children's Disability Network Managers about children's disability services and current challenges including long waiting lists, increasing Assessment of Need and general disability service demands and staffing vacancies.

The Roadmap was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.



The HSE acknowledged the limited consultation in regards to the Roadmap to date and is committed to substantially increasing and improving the level and quality of consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.

Work on this has already commenced. This includes;

- Family Voices secured for the Roadmap's Service Improvement Programme Board and its 5 Working Groups.
- Heads of Service Disabilities or CHO Service Improvement Lead representatives nominated onto the Service Improvement Programme Board and all 5 Working Groups reporting to it.
- Section 38 and 39 Lead Agencies representatives onto the Service Improvement Programme Board and all 5 Working Groups reporting to it.
- Engagement with Professional Bodies representatives group commenced Nov 16th 2023.

The Roadmap includes an action to survey Family Representative Groups every 6 months on their experience of the Roadmap implementation. It also includes a commitment to keep the Roadmap under review as the staff vacancies are filled over the 30 months lifespan of the Roadmap.

The Roadmap is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families. It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, that for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

Implementation of the Roadmap for Service Improvement Actions will:

- Ensure children are referred to the most appropriate service (National Access Policy)
- Reduce the waiting time for children currently waitlisted for CDNTs
- Optimise use of voluntary and private disability service providers for assessments and interventions.
- Improve HSE's legislative compliance for AONs as defined in the Disability Act
- Improve outcomes for children and families and their experience of CDNT service
- Enable teams to optimise service effectiveness and efficiencies, and opportunities to collaborate with community networks such as Children and Young People's Services Committees.
- Improve staff retention on CDNTs in the long-term as a good place to work.

Many of the 60 actions contained in the Roadmap have already been progressed including a robust suite of CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, the majority of which are now in train.

In addition, Minister of State Anne Rabbitte has convened a Disabilities Workforce Enhancement Group, including National Disability Operations Team and NCPPD representation, focused on the immediate, medium and long term sustainability of Disabilities workforce, including CDNT.

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**



Appendix 1

The Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023–2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People document was prepared by the HSE Head of Operations, Disability Services with significant engagement and input from the following:

- HSE CEO and COO
- HSE National Director of Community Operations
- HSE Community Operations Disabilities Team
- HSE HR
- HSE National Clinical Programme for People with Disability
- HSE Communications
- Heads of Disability Services
- CEOs of Lead Agencies for CDNTs
- HSE Planning and Performance Board Committee, including family members of children with disabilities
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Health

