



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

29th November 2023

Deputy Carol Nolan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: carol.nolan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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: 51284/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to outline what national or international evidence or research, apart from data in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Disability Strategy 2004, the Education for Persons with Special Education Needs Act 2004, and the Disability Act 2005, was undertaken or considered in devising the progressing disabilities services programme; what models of implementation elsewhere, if any, were examined; his views on the conceptualisation of the PDS programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme

The implementation of *the Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People (PDS) programme* is agreed Government and HSE policy. This policy supports the reconfiguration of children's disability services to provide equitable, child and family centred services based on need rather than diagnosis

Research and information regarding evidence informed practice was and continues to be considered in detail in ongoing development of the child and family centred service national policies and services across the 91 teams. Related documents can be found at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/documents>

These include

- Report of the Reference Group on Multidisciplinary Services for Children aged 5 – 18 years (2009) on which PDS Programme is based on and



- Outcomes for Children and their Families, a Report on an Outcomes Focused Performance Management and Accountability Framework for Early Intervention and School Age Disability Network Teams (2013)

The National Disability Authority has provided considerable support to the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People programme, including conducting the research resulting in the 2015 report:

'Children's Disability Services in Ireland'

The NDA is one of several organisations that has worked with the HSE to support the implementation of the Transforming Lives Programme, of which PDS is one of 3 change programme.

The NDA has also been commissioned to complete a review of the CDNT Model of service under the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People.

The NDA specifically references PDS as a key policy document on their website:

<http://nda.ie/disability-overview/key-policy-documents>

Yours Sincerely,



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

