



**Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,  
Caladh an Treoigh,  
Luimneach.

**Office of the Assistant National Director,**  
National Disability Team,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Deputy Michael Ring  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [michael.ring@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.ring@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Ring,

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

**PQ: 41585/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a service (details supplied) could be provided to working parents; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: CDNT run courses for parents of autistic children but the courses are held during work hours, what is available for those parents who are working? Can the courses be completed outside of working hours to ensure that parents who need help can avail of it?

**PQ: 41587/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a full review will take place of services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: Review the services being provided by CDNT as many parents have highlighted their concerns that the help the CDNT is more of a "checking-in" exercise with families and less (or no) actual service being provided compared to prior to the introduction of CDNTs.

**HSE Response**

**Childrens Disability Services**

In line with the Progressing Disability Services model, 93 CDNTs are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.



The model of service for all CDNTs is family-centred and based on the needs of the child. This includes universal, targeted and specialised supports and interventions, as appropriate to the individual child and family. It is based on the objectives of empowering and supporting parents and others who are with the child on a daily basis to facilitate the child's developmental needs.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for over 42,000 children (Per August interim metrics report) and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow. However, there are significant challenges for CDNTs including:

- Significant staffing vacancies
- Growth in numbers of children with complex needs as a result of their disability.
- Growth in demand for Assessment of Need, diverting further resources away from interventions

With regard to CDNT run courses for parents, a number of Childrens' Disability Network Team Managers (CDNTMs) have confirmed that it remains the practice to offer flexible timings of courses to optimise parent participation. Mornings when children are in school, is more popular however, courses are also provided in the evening to accommodate parents' wishes.

A nationally standardised CDNT Self-Audit tool was devised by the then National CDNT Steering Group and later updated based on CDNT feedback early experiences. Its purpose was to ensure CDNT services were developing in line with the child and family centred service model and principles of PDS. Teams are guided to complete the self audit annually.

In addition, the National Disability Authority will commence a 12 month review of CDNT services once its content and format has been agreed with the negotiating trade union.

### **Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People**

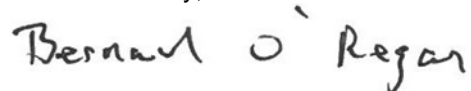
The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

The Roadmap, now in its implementation phase, has established four Working Groups which report into a Service Improvement Programme Board every month which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group chaired by the Minister of State, Ann Rabbitte.

Working Group 4: Communication and Engagement – has responsibility for developing and ensuring the delivery of a rolling Communication Plan for the Roadmap and CDNT service, which is a key priority; review and updating the HSE PDS Website to meet information needs of families, further Staff Engagement and Workshop days and ensuring sustainability of the Family Forums and Family Representative Groups.

The Roadmap contains 60 actions of which 12 have been completed and the majority of remaining actions are in train.

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**National Disability Team**

