



4th November 2024

Mr Paul Kehoe, TD,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: paul.kehoe@oireachtas.ie

PQ 42422/24 “To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of assessments of need that are completed every month in the Blanchardstown and Castleknock area CDNTs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” **Paul Kehoe, TD**

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Children living within the Blanchardstown and Castleknock catchment areas fall within the remit of either the Blanchardstown or Blakestown Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNT’s). All applications for Assessment of need (AON) for children living within Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West are administered through the AON office.

During a child’s AON process, further clinical assessments may be deemed appropriate in the determination of their health needs, in line with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005. In these circumstances, clinical assessments recommended are allocated by the AON office to various pathways which include CDNT’s, Primary Care services and available suitable providers. Depending on the individual circumstances, the quantity and type of assessments required to inform the nature and extent of a child’s disability varies from child to child. Consequently a child’s assessments via AON may be completed by a number of services / providers depending on the assessments required.

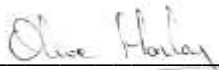
In this regard, a small number of children who live within the catchment areas of the Blanchardstown and Blakestown CDNT’s, have their whole clinical assessments completed by their local CDNT. In 2024 to the end of September, 1,828 children were allocated for further clinical assessments via AON in Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West.

To end of September 2024, the AON office allocated 18 full clinical assessments to the Blanchardstown and Blakestown CDNT's to complete the full complement of their recommended assessments. It is important to note this figure only relates to the cases where the CDNT completed all clinical aspects of a child's AON and does not include cases where all or part of a child's AON was completed by other areas which may include mental health services, paediatrician clinics and many other areas.

In some circumstances a child is already active with a CDNT in advance of commencement of an AON process. In this event, the CDNT may have already conducted assessments where the subsequent clinical reports may be used to contribute to the child's overall AON process by informing the nature and extent of the child's disability. Consequently the contribution of CDNT's to the overall AON process is difficult to readily quantify.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability
Covering Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West