



10th March 2021

Senator Marie Sherlock
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HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
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Re: REPDR/21/01377 - SLT services at Holy Family School for the Deaf

Dear Senator

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

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) would like to confirm that children attending Holy Family School for the Deaf, Cabra, who require speech and language therapy (SLT), will continue to have access, based on their assessed healthcare need(s).

All children who are receiving direct intervention from SLT will be referred to their local healthcare service as appropriate, which will be their Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) or Primary Care Team. The HSE is very mindful of the needs of people living with hearing loss and deafness.

CHO DNCC is in contact with Holy Family School for the Deaf, Cabra about Progressing Disability Services (PDS) in this area. We are supporting children and their families around this, and have available points of contact for queries at pds.dncc@hse.ie. A meeting will be arranged with the Principal to explore solutions that will address concerns raised by families and the school.

In terms of reform, specific to services for children and young people with complex disability support needs, the HSE and our voluntary partners are committed through the PDS programme to reconfiguring our services to Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). These teams will provide inter disciplinary, child and family centred healthcare services for children based on their presenting healthcare needs rather than diagnosis.

The HSE and our Lead Agency partners are working hard to ensure, all children' disability services fully reconfigure to CDNTs during Quarter 1 and 2 in 2021 in line with the National Progressing Disability Services model.

This is how Progressing Disability Services will work in the Cabra/Grangegorman Children's Disability Network Team:

- Holy Family School for the Deaf Cabra is based in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). There are 12 Children's Disability Network Teams across CHO DNCC.
- The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) currently working with The Holy Family School for the Deaf Cabra will work as part of an inter-disciplinary Children's Disability Network Team as per the individuals expression of preference.
- There are day students and students who are boarding in Holy Family School for the Deaf and Cabra/Grangegorman Children's Disability Network Team will provide healthcare services for students with complex needs who are boarding at Holy Family School for the Deaf, Cabra.
- Holy Family School for the Deaf Cabra day students with complex healthcare needs will be supported by their Children's Disability Network Team or Primary Care Team, based on their home address. We are carefully planning for the transition of day pupils to their local services and will continue this process.

- School plays a central role in a child's development and to the child and family. While Progressing Disability Services is primarily a family centred health service model, the Children's Disability Network Teams will continue to have links to Special Schools, such as Holy Family School for the Deaf Cabra and will continue to provide some in-school supports and training
- Across Ireland it is expected that all Community Healthcare Organisations will have established Children's Disability Network Teams by July this year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability