



Progressing Disability Services Bulletin: St. Michael's House South October 2015

What is Progressing Disability Services?

Progressing Disability Services (PDS) is a national process to reorganise children's disability services. This process changes the way young people (aged 0-18 years) and their families access and receive health services. These changes have already happened in other parts of Ireland and are about to happen in Dublin.

At the moment, a number of different HSE Disability Teams and publicly-funded disability agencies (also called voluntary bodies) provide services to children with disabilities living in South Dublin. St. Michael's House is one of these voluntary bodies. These services will soon combine their staff to create new teams, so that children will have equal access to supports regardless of where they live or the nature of their disability.

How will this work in South Dublin?

There will be 10 Disability Network Teams across South Dublin. Each team will cover a particular catchment area and will have:

- a Team Coordinator
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Psychology
- Social Work

Why change the current system?

Progressing Disability Services aims to remove barriers that have complicated access to services in the past. Children will not need to have a particular diagnosis to be eligible for the services of their Disability Network Team. It will be easier for families to know who to contact when looking for clinical supports for their child.

What will this mean for your child?

Once Progressing Disability Services is implemented, the children who currently receive therapy, psychology and social work supports from St. Michael's House will instead receive these services from a Disability Network Team.

When will this change happen?

The plan is for this change to take place within the next 12-15 months.

What happens next?

The HSE and disability agencies understand that this will mean significant changes for children currently receiving services, their families and staff. We are currently working together to plan for these changes.

How do I get further information?

This is a work in progress. St. Michael's House will contact families when there is more information on the changes and the timeline. The HSE website includes general information about Progressing Disability Services: <http://www.hse.ie/progressingdisabilityservices/>