



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Operations  
Disability Services  
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Health Service Executive  
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#### MEMORANDUM

To: Each Chief Officer (CHOs 1 to 9)  
Each Head of Social Care/ Disability  
Disability Umbrella Bodies

From: Dr Cathal Morgan, Head of Disability Operations

Re: **Guidance re. approach to 'Service Continuity: Initial Disability Support Frameworks'**

Copy: Mr David Walsh, National Director, Community Operations & SMT Members  
Mr Bernard O' Regan, Head of Disability Strategy & Planning  
National Disability Teams/ CCO Disability Clinical Lead/ Programme

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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Colleagues,

As you are aware, processes are underway in order to plan for the reintroduction of non-Covid services. In that regard, I wish to provide you with a number of important guidance documents to assist disability operations as follows;

1. Approach to Service Continuity: *Principles, Guidelines & Key Requirements for Service Reintroduction* (Interim Guidance);
2. Framework for Resumption of Adult Day Services;
3. Reshaping Disability Services From 2020 & Beyond (Home Support, PA, Respite).

The following is important to note;

1. The above guidance is interim and subject to change in line with the overall management of the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with contemporary Public Health Guidance;
2. From a disability perspective, it is important that CHOs and S38/39 agencies continue to work together at a regional level in order to plan and co-ordinate efforts. This approach throughout the emergency has demonstrated tremendous examples of collaborative working and sharing of resources as well as deliver new ways of working. We wish to strongly endorse this approach in order to maintain and build strong working relationships which is fundamentally about supporting people with a disability;
3. In respect of Childrens Disability Services, a national implementation group is being established to support the reform of these services as envisaged in PDS<sup>1</sup> and through the establishment of 'Networks' (CDNs) by year end. This remains a key a priority commitment for the HSE and its Lead Agency Partners;

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<sup>1</sup> Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS).



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4. The Disability Sector is re-establishing a number of structures including the National Consultative Forum as well as other operational structures that will co-ordinate and support the sector as we continue to navigate this pandemic and make every effort to deliver supports and services in line with Public Health Guidance.

In summary, the attached guidance frameworks are to enable and support disability service providers working within Community Healthcare Organisations in planning the recovery of required supports aligned to public health guidance. Further, that planning involves co-ordination of effort across all statutory and S38/39 agencies and on the basis that the guidance documents is interim only and subject to further iteration.

I take this opportunity to thank you and all staff working in disability services for your efforts and continued commitment to support people with disabilities.