



15th September 2022

TO ALL FÓRSA MEMBERS IN CHILDRENS DISABILITY NETWORK TEAMS

Dear Members,

I am writing to you again in relation to the recent government instruction that health and social care supports be returned to special school settings. I have previously issued correspondence on this matter.

Fórsa continue to receive numerous representations from members working within the service who have expressed significant clinical, operational, and ethical concerns about the implementation of this decision in circumstances where the current service faces a recruitment and retention crisis.

Yesterday afternoon (14th of September) we received an invitation to meet with the HSE. This meeting is scheduled Friday the 23rd of September. We have been clear from the outset that meaningful engagement on the implementation of this decision is a prerequisite for the successful provision of these services. Despite this I am extremely concerned by reports that implementation is proceeding locally in advance of any meaningful engagement at national level. This is untenable.

Therefore, I am instructing all union members to stop local engagement on the rollout of this decision in advance of any discussion nationally between Fórsa and the HSE. This instruction applies from today 15th of September, and I will provide a further update after the meeting on the 23rd of September.

There is one exemption to the above instruction and that is where CDNM's have been asked to progress recruitment paperwork for the filling of new posts associated with this decision. Delaying recruitment in circumstances where additional funding has been made available will be of no benefit to either side and so action on this element **only** may be progressed.

If you have any queries about this instruction, please contact your local Fórsa Branch Executive Committee and or your Fórsa Official.

Kind regards,



Linda Kelly

Linda Kelly
National Secretary