



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Each Special Needs Assistant c/o Fórsa

From: HSE Community Operations – Disability Team

Re: **Temporary Assignment of SNAs to HSE**

Date: 17th April 2020

The HSE wishes to thank Special Needs Assistants participating in the temporary reassignment to this organisation during the current public health emergency. The HSE acknowledges that there has been confusion regarding the Garda vetting process and wishes to reassure you that there is no intention to reassign you to Healthcare Assistant roles.

SNAs participating in this project will be reassigned to HSE and HSE funded children's disability services. You will join our multidisciplinary teams and work with our clinical staff (occupational therapists, psychologists, speech & language therapists etc) to support children & young people with disabilities. All support will be provided in line with public health advice regarding social distancing and other measures intended to limit the spread of COVID-19.

It is intended that SNAs will build on the excellent work that many of you are already doing and provide telephone and / or video support to children and families needing help at this difficult time. As part of the multidisciplinary children's disability team you will be given appropriate direction and advice in identifying strategies and activities to support your assigned children / families. The type and frequency of all supports will be agreed with the families in question. Some families may require a number of short "check in" calls each day, others may prefer less frequent, longer engagements. As public health restrictions are eased we hope that you will be able to provide some face to face supports for children and families.

The attached clarification document dated April 9th provides more detail regarding this project.

To ensure that you receive appropriate support and have regular opportunities to engage with our multidisciplinary teams we envisage that SNAs would regularly meet with colleagues in our HSE /

disability services premises. All such meetings would take place in line with public health advice in appropriate office or clinic spaces.

If any SNAs have an underlying health condition or particular circumstances that impact on their ability to leave their homes, remote working can be supported.

Where SNAs have additional skills and are interested in taking on roles in residential or other health services this can be explored on a case by case basis.