

SLÍ EILE



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Community Assessment and Transitional Living Unit



Rehabilitation Service
for Adults with
Acquired Brain Injury

INFORMATION ON ASSESSMENT PLACEMENTS

Slí Eile

17 New Toberaheena

Clonmel

Co Tipperary

Slí Eile opened in 1999, and is managed by the Health Service Executive as an integral part of its Acquired Brain Injury Services in the South East. It provides short to medium term residential rehabilitation placements in the community for three adults with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).

REHABILITATION AFTER ABI

According to the Department of Health and Children and the Health Service Executive's Working Group for the Development of a National Policy/Strategy for the provision of rehabilitation services (2008), rehabilitation is defined as:

'A problem solving process in which the person who experiences an impaired or loss of function acquires the knowledge, skills and support needed for their optimal physical, psychological and social and economic function.'

PHILOSOPHY OF SLÍ EILE

Slí Eile aims to be a stepping stone to greater independence for people with an ABI who may possess basic self care skills but are having difficulty with managing their lives due to intellectual/cognitive, and sometimes behavioural, difficulties.

Whilst providing 24 hour support and supervision, the service seeks to allow as much privacy and independence as possible. It is recognised that there may have to be degrees of risk-taking to further an individual's independence and these are fully assessed and agreed with the resident, family and staff.

THE HOUSE

Slí Eile, 17 New Toberaheena, is a bungalow in a residential area of Clonmel, about 2.5 kilometres from the town centre, and only a five minute stroll from the local shops.

The house can accommodate three residents at any one time. Each resident has a single bedroom, with ensuite facilities, to which they may bring personal belongings. The resident is encouraged to view their room as their own for the duration of their placement. The house is seen as the resident's home and staff work at maintaining a relaxed, homely environment.



LIFE AT SLÍ EILE

Every day, each service user pursues his/her individualised programme. This may involve working on activities of daily living, attending a training course, sessions in the gym or swimming pool, shopping trips or visits to other places, relevant to the individual. Depending on individual needs and stage of rehabilitation, the service user may be accompanied by staff for all, or part of the activity. Slí Eile has its own transport, but residents are encouraged to use public transport where possible.



STAFF

The house is staffed by a full-time manager, a social care leader and social care workers. They are supported by a neuropsychologist who is an integral part of the team. Other professionals contribute to the service as required.

Slí Eile Staff. Two members of staff are on duty at all times, to ensure adequate care and supervision. At night, there is one waking and one sleeping member of staff. Staff provide an environment that is understanding but realistic about ABI, and that fosters the individuals independence.

Roles carried out by staff with residents include:

- Assessment e.g. independent living skills, memory, areas of risk.
- Facilitating goal planning.
- Monitoring progress.
- Providing feedback and support.
- Providing such practical assistance to service users as is necessary, while always promoting more independence.
- Helping develop strategies to deal with the affects of their ABI.
- Participating in review meetings with families and carers.
- Providing a follow-on programme after discharge.

Other professionals. Residents in the house usually have contact with a neuropsychologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and speech & language therapist. Where appropriate, referrals may also be made to other professionals.

Links with other services. The Slí Eile service links regularly with other services such as the South East Regional ABI Team, the Liaison Public Health Nurse for Physical and Sensory Disabilities, Training and Employment services, Centres for Independent Living, Irish Wheelchair Association and other support agencies. There is particular focus on such links in preparation for the person returning home.

The Service

Slí Eile normally operates on a five-day-a-week basis, with residents returning home or to other places of residence at the weekends. Slí Eile offers the following services:

Assessment carried out over a period of one or more weeks. All new residents must begin with an assessment period.

Community rehabilitation placements for a longer period. Such a placement may be offered to a service user who has already completed an assessment placement at Slí Eile, and is judged likely to benefit from a longer period there to develop more independence. This may be appropriate, for example, for any of the following:

- A person whose injury was relatively recent and who would benefit from further rehabilitation in a community setting before moving on.
- A person who needs time, in a supportive environment, to make emotional as well as practical adjustments to life after ABI.
- A person in a home situation where patterns have become established and whose opportunities for change will be enhanced in a new setting.
- A person who wishes to develop skills for more independent living.

Review placement lasting a few weeks. This may be offered to an individual some time after completing an initial placement at Slí Eile. Such an individual usually has an ABI for several years and is living in the community. A lengthy rehabilitation placement may not be suitable but they may benefit from a week or a few weeks in Slí Eile to re-evaluate their abilities and the strategies being used to deal with the effects of ABI. A person may be offered a number of such review placements over a period of years.

Follow-on programme. Occasionally, a follow-on programme may be offered to an individual who has completed a residential period at Slí Eile, but wishes to continue to work on one or two areas of rehabilitation, e.g. cooking, socialisation.



Who is likely to benefit from a place at Slí Eile?

Candidates for a placement in Slí Eile must be aged 16 or over with an Acquired Brain Injury. Suitable candidates are likely to demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Cognitive deficits, such as problems with memory, thinking, language and communication, attention, problem-solving and/or organisation.
- Behaviour that is impulsive or inappropriate.
- Limited awareness of their difficulties.
- Difficulty adjusting to life after ABI.

Slí Eile may not be a suitable placement for individuals with severe alcohol, substance abuse or antisocial behaviour problems.

Admission Criteria and Procedures

- 1) The service is primarily for individuals residing within the Health Service Executive Local Health Areas of South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford.
- 2) An assessment is made by the Slí Eile Services and the service user has an opportunity to visit Slí Eile before a place is offered.
- 3) Referrals are accepted from any source.
- 4) Final decisions regarding admission are made by the Admission Committee.
- 5) A separate leaflet gives details on an Assessment Placement.



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For further information, or to make a referral,
please contact:

Manager,
Slí Eile,
17 New Toberaheena,
Clonmel.

Telephone: 052 6180489
Email: breda.hahessy@hse.ie

