

Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
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Services for Older People
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16 December 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Adams,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ ref 50009/19

To ask the Minister for Health if there are persons resident here in receipt of a direct payment from his Department or from the HSE for the purchase of homecare under the intensive homecare package.

The roll out of Intensive Home Care Packages (IHCPs) commenced in January 2015 and included IHCPs for people with dementia. The number of people actively in receipt of an Intensive Home Care Package at end of October 2019 is 199.

In addition to Intensive Home Care Packages, the HSE continues to provide mainstream home support and other appropriate community based supports such as day care, respite etc. to people whose needs have been assessed as requiring these supports and within available resources.

As part of the Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP), an additional avenue of Home Support delivery was explored with aims to shift the delivery of care away from acute hospitals towards community-based, planned and coordinated care. This would be achieved through the development and implementation of integrated services and pathways for older people with complex health and social care needs. Under this programme, the HSE has developed a 10-step integrated care framework for older people. Two of these steps are person-centred care planning and service delivery and enabling older people to live well in the community. One of the actions undertaken in support of the ICPOP was the implementation of a Consumer Directed Home Support pilot programme in one CHO which concluded in March 2018, with an evaluation of the programme undertaken by University College Dublin.

The evaluation of the Consumer Directed Home Support pilot project undertaken by UCD recommended that while CDHS could not be implemented as the universal method of home support service delivery, it is a viable model of care as part of a larger infrastructure of home support. It is recommended that the positive elements of CDHS including choice and flexibility, where feasible, be incorporated into existing home support services and as such, CDHS was included in Tender 2018 as an option of service delivery for clients.



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Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS) was piloted as a new way of enabling clients and families' choice and control in their care delivery, in keeping with the principles of empowerment and autonomy inherent in person centred care. Consumer Directed Home Support programmes give clients more control over who provides the services and how and when these services are delivered. When a client is approved for a Home Support Service and HSE staff are not available to deliver the service, then an external provider, who has been approved by the HSE under Tender 2018 Arrangements, will deliver the service on their behalf. As part of the application for a Home Support service, the client can apply to be considered for CDHS.

The CDHS approach facilitates clients to deal directly with the HSE Approved Provider(s) of their choice and to arrange days and times of service delivery. If the client is approved for this approach to the delivery of their Home Support, a letter is issued approving a weekly amount of funding which is used by the client to arrange home support from their choice of provider (approved by the HSE).

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to note, that when a client is approved for Home Support, commencement of the service is dependent on funding being available for that service. Clients who are approved for funding for a Home Support service and where funding is not readily available at that time, those clients are placed on a waiting list until such time as funding becomes available and their home support service can commence.

The number of people in receipt of home support, including CDHS, at any time will vary having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved and as clients cease and new clients with different value home supports are approved and commenced.

The HSE is currently implementing a single approach across the system in order to streamline services, and their delivery, to make the Home Support Service easier to understand and to reduce the complexity of the application process for clients. The National Guidelines & Procedures for Standardised Implementation of the Home Support Service 2018 provides guidance and procedures to each of the CHOs on operating the service. These guidelines are available for download at the following link: -

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/service-arrangement-documents.html>

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Tuohy

**Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People**