



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Social Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
c/o Community Care Headquarters  
James' Green  
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600  
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11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Mr. James Browne T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 49951-19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding residential housing for persons with an intellectual disability in County Wexford; the reason a person may secure a place on the waiting list; the average length of time spent on the urgent waiting list; the number of persons on the urgent waiting list; his plans for additional housing for persons with an intellectual disability in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 49988-19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding residential housing for persons with an intellectual disability in County Wexford; the reason a person may secure a place on the waiting list; the average length of time spent on the urgent waiting list; the number of persons on the urgent waiting list; his plans for additional housing for persons with an intellectual disability in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 50305-19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with an intellectual disability awaiting residential care in County Wexford; the number of those waiting more than 12, 24, 36 and 48 months, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Browne

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply is the current position.*

To manage the decision making process and govern the allocation of residential care the South East Community Healthcare has established a committee in line with the National Framework for Management of Residential Supports. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the co-ordination and management of matters relating to existing/future/emergency placements for residential services through a SECH centralised process. The committee will ensure equity, transparency in allocating

residential placements for people with an Intellectual Disability and / or Autism and / or Physical and Sensory Disability within the SECH area.

In line with present procedures all residential care requests (South East) and associated information is included on the South East Disability Supports Application Management Tool (DSAMT). The DSAMT advises the current needs as well as future needs of the disability client. Applications are categorised as emergency, contingency/existing and future needs. There are 34 clients in total for Wexford identified as requesting either additional funding in current placement or full residential placement and these are waitlisted in the categories outlined below;

- 11 x requiring additional funding
- 9 x future needs
- 12 x current needs
- 2 x emergency

Under the policy an Emergency is defined as follows:

Emergency needs for residential supports may be defined as urgent situations, where current care and /or support arrangement cannot meet the assessed needs of the service user and an alternative residential support or placement must be made available.

Criteria that are applied in these cases:

- Sudden unavailability of primary carer due to sudden illness or death
- Where clinical assessment determines that there is a high or likely risk of serious harm or fatality associated with a case
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of being abused
- A vulnerable person who is at risk of abusing others

In order to ensure that the needs of these people are met in the first instance – the HSE refer to the bed register to ascertain is there an appropriate suitable vacancy to match and meet the needs of the person

- If the vacancy is a suitable funded vacancy and the person is agreeable the placement proceeds
- If the vacancy is suitable and unfunded – within the existing approved allocated resources for emergencies funding may need to be redirected to facilitated a placement as soon as possible depending on the risks presenting
- If no suitable vacancy providers are requested with consent of service user family to develop a particular service for the person within the existing approved allocated resources for emergencies. funding may need to be redirected to facilitated a placement as soon as possible depending on the risks presenting
- If nobody on the emergency list needs are suitable to the vacancy. The vacancy is then profiled against those who are on the contingency waiting list
- The same procedure applies in relation to whether the vacancy is funded, partially funded or unfunded to meet the needs of the person
- If the vacancy does not meet the needs of those on the contingency or is unfunded, community services are increased such as respite / home support within the resource allocation available until such time as funding for residential care is made available within the existing agreed allocation.

The HSE policy is to provide supports to clients to enable them to remain in informal care as long as possible. However the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) would welcome an opportunity to develop residential facilities if funding was made available.

As the disability service is not a demand led service, we must provide a safe effective service within the agreed annual funding allocation and not beyond this limit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Patricia McEvoy**  
**General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare**