



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy  
Services for Older People  
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1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019

Deputy John Brassil, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Brassil,

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 2556/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to extend the number of day care centres for dementia patients in view of the projected increase of the number of persons that will present with dementia; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The implementation of The Irish National Dementia Strategy progresses with a focus on developing care pathways across all care settings, implementing flexible and personalised approaches to care. One of the biggest challenges is the growing number of people living with dementia, many of whom have complex care needs, and the demands this places on available services. The support of communities and voluntary agencies, is hugely valued in both social and health service provision. Integration of services including, local and community-based activity is a key fundamental to maintaining older people at home.

In 2017 the National Dementia Office (NDO) and the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) undertook a mapping exercise to identify dementia-specific community-based services and supports; those that are in place for the 63% of people with dementia living in the community. The findings of this exercise showed the distribution of dementia-specific services nationally and gaps in service provision.

To address this gap, and to meet the objectives outlined in the National Dementia Strategy (2014) that people with dementia should be facilitated to remain living in their own homes, the National Dementia Office (NDO), HSE secured €2.2m from Dormant Accounts through the Department of Health to test the concept of community-based resource or meeting centres for people living with dementia.

The resource/meetings centres will be introduced in a phased basis over the coming years and will address service and support. The centres will offer a range of services for people with dementia and family carers. Services that are flexible and tailored to individual needs. These could include, but are

not limited to, day care services, information and advice services, peer and carer support, post-diagnostic support programmes, education and training and psychosocial interventions. The Centres will work with and complement the Post-diagnostic and Diagnostic pathway projects currently being undertaken by the NDO and link to the Memory Resource Technology Rooms which are being established in each CHO area.

In 2019 the HSE commits to providing 28,000 day care places each week across 300 day care centres. A National Audit of Day Care is currently underway and this will identify the location, staff composition, service arrangements and number of older people and people living with dementia utilising adult day care places. The audit will support service development in this area into the future.

The Health Service Executive Service Plan 2019 outlines that community services will continue to develop integrated working arrangements across the health and social care settings to ensure the successful delivery of a range of services to support older people, including people living with dementia, to return or remain at home for as long as possible

Yours sincerely,



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**MICHAEL FITZGERALD**  
**A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care – Strategy**