



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
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28th June 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 25330/19

To ask the Minister for Health the other services being funded from the homecare budget that are not related to the homecare service or direct homecare client hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 25344/19

To ask the Minister for Health the services, both pay and non-pay, being funded from the homecare budget that are not directly related to the homecare service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. The HSE, working within its available resources, has sought to maintain and when possible to expand the range and volume of services available to support people to remain in their own homes, to prevent early admission to long term residential care and to support people to return to their homes following an acute hospital admission. The Home Support resource is used to its maximum effect as part of each individual recipient's care plan.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides for the following;

- 17.9m home support hours to be delivered to 53,000 people inclusive of 410,000 hours/550 home support packages funded under the Winter Initiative 2018/2019
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

Funding for home support has a defined budget as set out above in the National Service Plan. The overall allocation for home support has seen a significant increase of almost €140m in the period 2015 to 2019.

The annual home support budget as set out in the service plan is used to deliver both direct service provision through directly employed staff and indirect service provision through Approved Providers (voluntary/not for



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profit and for profit providers) who have service arrangements with the HSE. While there are inherent pay and non-pay costs associated with providing the home support service, the funding available is not used to fund other HSE services.

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.

- This is a key action under the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and will improve access to home support services.
- It will also help to improve access to the home support services that people need in an affordable and sustainable way.
- The system of regulation for home support will help to ensure that the public can be confident that the services provided are of a high standard.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 also sets out a very significant programme of work aimed out developing and improving health and social care generally, with a significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan".

On behalf of Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People