



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Sóisialta,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Campas Gnó Shoird, Bóthar Bhaile Anraí,
Sord, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, K67 D8H0.

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4th July 2019

Mr. Alan Kelly, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.
Email: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

Head of Service Social Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 D8H0.

Re: 22786 PQ ref 22508/19 “To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the health budget for home support and public health nurse visits is managed for those exiting hospital care while recognising local need, particularly in areas with high levels of more senior and frailer residents such as those living in the Beaumont area: the way in which he plans to increase the levels of home support and regular public health nurse visits in this area for those exiting hospital care: and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In 2019 CHO Dublin North City and County is expected to provide 2,813,000 home support hours, an increase of 54,824 hours on last year. Additional funding has been made available to meet the 2019 Home Support targets. CHO DNCC is required to work within available resources in the provision of home supports and, arising from the demands for services, operates a waiting list when clients are not provided with a new or additional service immediately. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. The level of activity and associated costs in the provision of Home Support within CHO DNCC is managed in a way that ensures that those with the greatest need are supported and that the overall expenditure on home support services by the CHO does not exceed available funding.

Hospitals identify people for whom home support is essential for discharge. An application is made by the Hospital to CHO DNCC Home Support office. This application, which includes the Common Summary Assessment Record or Single Assessment Tool, and other supporting documentation, is reviewed by the Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing (ADPHN) in conjunction with the Public Health Nurse (PHN) who covers the local geographical area where the person resides. Once clinically approved by the ADPHN, a decision is made to fund the home support within available financial resources.

The PHN service reviews all hospital discharges and prioritises them according to clinical need. If a visit is required, it is undertaken at the nearest possible opportunity pending the information given on the referral. Some cases may require a nursing visit on the same day of discharge, but for all others, visits are usually undertaken within the first week of discharge from hospital. There are no delays in nursing care for service users exiting hospital once a referral has been received.

The Beaumont area is served by three different HSE networks employing 46.5 Nursing staff and six Home Care Attendants. There is one nursing vacancy in the area which is currently at recruitment stage.

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

Yours sincerely

Mairead Lyons
Head of Service - Social Care