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27th November 2019

Deputy Paul Kehoe,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 46277/19:

"To ask the Minister for Health if there is support for older persons to assist them in the costs of purchasing a mobility scooter; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Paul Kehoe

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

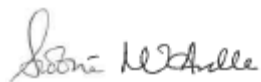
Community Funded Schemes is a collective name for all of the many products, supports, supplies, appliances and aids that are provided through community services. There are a variety of products and services provided under the schemes. These products and services play a key role in assisting and supporting service users to maintain every day functioning, to remain living in their homes and local community. They also avoid the need for a hospital presentation or admission whilst also facilitating early discharge from hospital back into the community.

On foot of a request by a Healthcare Professional the HSE directly provides eligible Service Users with essential aids and appliances. The budget for Aids & Appliances (including mobility scooters) is devolved to the Community Health Organisations (CHO). At Area level, spend is prioritised by the Resource Allocation Groups. At present this process is governed by local policy in terms of determining the demand, priority, and allocation of items deemed essential.

Given the requirement to ensure the safety of service users, the HSE must assume responsibility for the servicing repair, and recycling of these items. In order to fulfil these requirements it must retain ownership and, as such, part funding /grant aid is not practical for these high-cost items.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations