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02nd December 2019

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Barrett,

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 47732/19

To ask the Minister for Health the amount that has been spent for the provision of home support services in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019; the amount that has spent on the provision of home support by external agencies in the same period by year; the amount spent in each area nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides for;

- 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

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. There has been a significant increase in funding being made available for the provision of home support services; an increase of circa €140 million since 2014. (See Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the total funding for Home Support in the years 2016 to 2019.)

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' increases. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs.

In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

In relation to the provision of services provided by external providers, as at the end of August 2019 (preliminary data), 56% of home support hours delivered have been provided by Approved External Providers. (See Appendix 2 below for a percentage breakdown by CHO in each of the years requested)

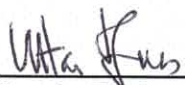
The level of activity and associated costs in relation to home support is monitored on an on-going basis by the Chief Officers across their CHOs and with the Head of Operations Services for Older People nationally to ensure that those with the greatest needs are supported and that the overall expenditure on home support services by the HSE does not exceed the available funding.

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.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 also sets out a very significant programme of work aimed at developing and improving health and social care generally, with a significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.
- 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.

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



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Older Persons Services – Operations

Appendix 1 – Home Support Budget 2016 to 2019 (inclusive)

CHO	Budget 2019***	Budget 2018*	Budget 2017	Budget 2016
National Total	447,716,326	416,880,992	380,356,703	349,087,135

Appendix 2 – Indirect Service Provision 2016 to 2019 (inclusive)

CHO	Home Support					
	2019			2018		
	Total Aug YTD	Total Direct Hours	Total Indirect Hours	Total Dec YTD	Total Direct Hours	Total Indirect Hours
CHO 1	1,121,783	814,121	307,662	1,694,036	1,159,125	534,911
CHO 2	1,217,562	579,280	638,282	1,787,709	872,444	915,265
CHO 3	1,022,023	407,860	614,163	1,456,803	650,884	805,919
CHO 4	1,772,180	1,457,935	314,245	2,707,162	2,289,289	417,873
CHO 5	1,336,475	989,159	347,316	1,927,217	1,456,677	470,539
CHO 6	903,680	-	903,680	1,301,981	-	1,301,981
CHO 7	1,297,251	319,533	977,718	1,880,560	291,324	1,589,236
CHO 8	1,129,188	552,680	576,508	1,616,808	787,214	829,594
CHO 9	1,772,668	-	1,772,668	2,758,176	-	2,758,176
Total	11,572,809	5,120,568	6,452,241	17,130,453	7,506,958	9,623,495

CHO	Homehelp Hours					
	2017			2016		
	Total Dec YTD	Total Direct Hours	Total Indirect Hours	Total Dec YTD	Total Direct Hours	Total Indirect Hours
CHO 1	1,483,664	1,145,834	337,830	1,462,017	1,146,504	315,513
CHO 2	1,401,158	830,478	570,680	1,384,165	793,656	590,509
CHO 3	925,776	631,081	294,695	960,387	645,512	314,875
CHO 4	1,942,100	1,887,717	54,383	1,983,144	1,974,647	8,497
CHO 5	1,149,816	989,507	160,309	1,213,568	1,062,421	151,147
CHO 6	346,153	8,257	337,896	388,952	-	388,952
CHO 7	767,213	448,679	318,534	714,997	302,155	412,842
CHO 8	1,416,351	873,258	543,092	1,294,111	737,977	556,134
CHO 9	1,358,589	59,062	1,299,527	1,145,393	-	1,145,393
Total	10,790,819	6,873,875	3,916,945	10,546,733	6,662,872	3,883,861