



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

14th October 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive 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 40596/19

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that since the publication of the three year implementation framework for the neurorehabilitation strategy in February 2019, the HSE group responsible for its implementation has only met on one occasion and the flagship project for this framework in CHOs 6 and 7 is now at a complete standstill due to the lack of funding to implement it.

HSE Response.

The National Steering Group have not met over the past number of months, owing to a number of factors, primarily the retirement of 2 key stakeholders, one being the co-chair of the Steering Group the Assistant National Director, Disability Strategy & Planning and the other being the designated lead within Disability Strategy & Planning. The new Assistant National Director took up their position week beginning 7th October. It is anticipated that a face to face update meeting with the National Steering Group will be convened over the coming weeks.

While the Steering Group may not have been meeting regularly, work was continuing through Disability Strategy & Planning, specifically with respect to;

- a) Submission for funding through the Slaintecare Integration Fund
- b) Submission for funding for estimates 2020 process
- c) Supporting nominated CHO leads for the neurorehabilitation strategy in terms of establishing local implementation teams, population needs assessments, mapping of services, developing project plans etc.

With respect to the Demonstrator Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network, no funding has been approved to date to progress the work. All work to date has been done within existing resources. A summary of achievements to date include;

- Introduction of a small neurorehabilitation outpatient service from Peamount Healthcare
- Terms Of Reference approved by member organisations
- Memorandum of Understanding agreed by member organisations
- Mapping exercise complete
- Population needs analysis complete

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- Audit of current practice with respect to patient journey complete
- Development of job descriptions for new roles such as rehabilitation coordinator, complex discharge planner etc complete
- Draft standardised assessment of need across continuum of care under review and being prepared for pilot
- Service Level Agreement supporting cross organisation rotation of clinical staff being finalised ahead of implementation
- Data Protection Impact Assessment in substantial draft form and with Data Commissioner currently
- Service user consultation focus group complete
- Review of existing policies and procedures across organisations within the network
- Standardised waiting list management policy for use across the MCRN in draft form
- Baseline status for agreed KPI's currently being developed
- Engagement with colleagues in NHS Scotland re; implementation of managed clinical networks
- Care pathway agreed between National Rehabilitation Hospital and Royal Hospital in Donnybrook for transfers of care between the 2 organisations

While these tasks won't make a direct impact on patient outcomes or experience at this point, they are non-the-less essential as foundations for introducing managed clinical rehabilitation networks in Ireland.

It is acknowledged however that the potential for further progress will be limited going forward without funding to support implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Head of Disability Strategy and Planning