



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin
Oifig an Cheantair
Bóthar an Ardáin
An Tulach Mhór
Co Uíbh Fhailí

Chief Officer CHO Area 8
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21st November, 2019

Deputy Shane Cassells T.D.
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ ref 41211/19: To ask the Minister for Health the action that will be taken to reduce the waiting list for homecare in County Meath in which the number waiting has seen a significant rise during 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cassells,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question and Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Home Support Services is a non-statutory scheme, the aim of which is to support an Older Person living at home. The quantity of services is limited to available budget.

As of 30th September 2019 Meath had 402 clients on a waiting list for home support hours. The waiting list has grown considerably over the last year as the demand for home support continues to grow. Local services continue to profile priority home support clients based on assessed needs and are working to provide services based on that priority profile.

At the end of September Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation was continuing to deliver home support services to 5,296 clients with a total of 137,437 hours. These hours have since increased and will be available following the next Key Performance Indicators return mid-November. The expenditure on Older Persons Home Support services in Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation in September 2019 was €3,755,797. The allocation of funding for home supports across the system, though significant, is finite and services must be delivered within the funding available.

For the remainder of 2019, a small quantity of additional home support hours will be provided to support people being discharged from hospital and to address our waiting list. Funding for these additional hours has been provided by our national Services for Older Person offices. Please be assured our local services will maximise the use of these additional hours over the coming weeks.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer

