



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

Deputy Sean Fleming,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie](mailto:sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Fleming,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ 44003/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be provided to an organisation (details supplied) for a project; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details Supplied: Funding for Acquired Brain Injury Ireland for a Regional Neuro-rehabilitation Centre to include start up, staffing, programme and infrastructural developments as a suitable premises is already in place.

**PQ 44004/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be provided for an organisation (details supplied) to sustain its activities in the 2020 estimates; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details Supplied: Funding of €1.5million required by Acquired Brain Injury Ireland to sustain their services.

**HSE Response - Services and Supports for Persons with an Acquired Brain Injury**

The Health Service Executive Health funds a range of services across the country, for people with Acquired Brain Injury. These services include:

- Acute Hospital Services
- The National Rehabilitation Hospital.
- A range of multi-disciplinary services at local level providing rehabilitation in the community to people with ABI
- A range of long term assisted living supports, usually contracted by the health service from the non-statutory sector.
- Rehabilitative training services, also usually contracted by the health service from the non-statutory sector.

These services are provided directly by the health service and a number of non statutory organisations across Disability Services, General Community Services, Acute Hospital Services and Services for Older People.

Straitéis agus Pleanáil Oifig na Míchumas,  
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Within Disability Services, the following organisations are funded to provide services for individuals with disabilities as a result of an acquired brain injury;

- Acquired Brain Injury Ireland: (ABII) funded under Section 39 of the Health Act, 2004 The HSE is providing €12,548,668.00 to ABII in 2019.
- Headway Ireland (HI): Headway Ireland provides a range of services for people with disability on behalf of the Health Service Executive under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004. The agency has been allocated funding of €2,770,874 by the HSE in 2019.
- The Cheshire Foundation Ireland: allocated €21,510,761 by the HSE in 2019 under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004.
- Irish Wheelchair Association: The IWA operates in all 9 CHO Areas and receives significant funding from the HSE under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004. The agency is scheduled to receive funding of €38.4 million in 2019.
- Enable Ireland: The HSE currently has 14 Service Arrangements with Enable Ireland, covering eight of the nine HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Areas. Enable Ireland is scheduled to receive funding of €42,901,358 million from the HSE under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 in 2019.

### **Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII)**

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is a Section 39 voluntary organisation which was set up in June 2000 in response to the need for services for people with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). ABI Ireland aims to enable people with ABI to live an independent life in the community, by providing and maintaining a supportive living environment.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland works in partnership with the HSE to provide a range of flexible and tailor made services for people with acquired brain injury, in direct response to local identified needs. Services provided by Acquired Brain Injury Ireland nationwide include:

- Fourteen Assisted Living Services;
- Home & Community Rehabilitation / Outreach Services;
- Day Resource Services;
- Family Support Services / Home Liaison / Social Work;
- Psychological Services; and
- Acquired Brain Injury Awareness Information, Training and Education Programmes.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is funded under Section 39 of the Health Act and subject to Service Arrangements. The agency is scheduled to receive funding from the HSE of €12,675,674 in 2019.

The HSE recognises the value of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's services to people with ABI. However, further increases in funding can only be considered within the parameters and scope of funding available to the HSE.

### **Neuro Rehabilitation Implementation Framework**

The Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) was launched in February 2019. The overarching aim of the Strategy is the development of neuro-rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred neuro-rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway, and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary.

While the Implementation Framework will support the delivery of services to persons with Acquired Brain Injury, it does not concentrate on any one specific diagnoses and aims to reach all people with neuro-rehabilitation requirements.

These services should be configured into population based managed clinical rehabilitation networks (MCRNs). The MCRN, while an effective model in a number of European countries, is a new concept

in Ireland. MCRNs are recognised as having the potential to bring together an appropriate range of primary, secondary and tertiary services to ensure equitable provision of high quality and clinically effective services.

ABII are represented on the Neuro Rehabilitation National Steering Group through the Executive Director of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland. They also have seats on the working group tasked with developing the implementation framework and on the Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network Demonstrator working group. The ethos of the Neurorehabilitation Strategy, which is reflected in the Implementation Framework, is that access to specialist neurorehabilitation services should be based on clinically assessed need not diagnosis.


The 2019 HSE National Service plan made no provision for funding to commence the Implementation Framework or the Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network demonstrator project. However, work on the Demonstrator Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network continued 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
- 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.

The HSE continues to work on progressing these key areas which will underpin the success and evaluation of a managed clinical rehabilitation network. The HSE's National Service Plan which will set out the detail of the level of service and supports that will be provided in 2020 is currently being agreed.

Yours sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan,**  
**Head of Disability Strategy and Planning**