



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 19423/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of day care centres in County Wexford that have reopened; the number that will be reopened by September 2020; if there are centres that will not be in a position to reopen by September 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 19424/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of day care centres for persons with intellectual disabilities in County Wexford that have submitted applications for funding in order to reopen; the amount required; the amount allocated to date; the total amount that will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Mythen

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The HSE provides and funds a range of day services and rehabilitative training to approximately 19,000 adults with disabilities. These services are provided in approximately 1,000 day centres, ranging in size from hubs meeting the needs of 10 – 15 people, to larger day services for up to 50 people. These services are essential for the individuals who avail of them and their families. The HSE and voluntary providers know and share the desire of many families for services to resume as soon as possible. The HSE are also mindful that any return to services is planned and managed in a manner that is safe for the individuals their families and for staff.

In line with public health guidance, at the outset of the pandemic, these day services, along with many other services, were significantly reduced to limit exposure to Covid-19. At this time the HSE engaged with service providers to ensure that where possible, some level of service was maintained, based on prioritising those with the greatest needs. In this respect, service providers continued to provide outreach supports to people with the greatest need.

Over the coming weeks, in line with National Public Health guidance which was published 9th July 2020 the local disability team will work closely with all providers of day services both HSE, voluntary and private providers to ensure compliance with the these guidelines which are as follows:

- Providers will plan to resume day services which will see the commencement of opening up of locations from August.
- Providers are required to liaise with people with disabilities and their families to discuss how best to meet their support needs in the context of public health guidance.
- People will return to services but at reduced hours per week; however the HSE and service providers will keep in review this measure and as public health guidance evolves, our capacity to provide supports will adapt accordingly.
- For some people with disabilities, it may be more appropriate to provide supports in their own home.
- Each person's personal plan will guide the package of supports that they will receive.
- Where families are experiencing significant challenges or where there is an emergency, the HSE and providers will work positively to assist and support those families to the greatest possible extent.
- Providers are exploring options such as the use of other community facilities to augment capacity.
- People that have left school and require a day service will be introduced to a new service during September and it is important to note that ring-fenced resources have been provided to facilitate same as part of the HSEs National Service Plan (2020).

The resumption plan will follow public health guidance and will remain flexible to ensure the health of service users, their families and staff is protected. As services resume, providers are making changes to ensure social distancing is appropriate. For the time being, this will have an inevitable impact on service capacity. There is also a requirement to ensure strict infection prevention and control measures across services. Where possible, services are working to continue to utilise innovative measures such as tele-health or providing consultations on phone or on video calls.

The guidance as outlined above is to enable safe and person centred disability day service supports to be provided in line with current public health advice and infection control guidance.

In Wexford the day services providers include: NLN, Rehabcare, St Aidans, Ard Aoibhinn, Cumas, CWCWE, IWA and Windmill and these day services are currently in the process of contacting participants and their families to advise them regarding available services.

The HSE has not been advised of any centre closures nor have we received any specific applications for additional costs for day service to fully open and disability services are currently working within current budget.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Anne Ennis

Acting/Head of Service, Disability Service