



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
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7 August 2020

**Deputy Cormac Devlin
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Devlin,

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 ref 20219/20

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the reopening of day services for older persons and persons living with dementia; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Older Persons' services are delivered as far as possible in their own homes and within their own communities. A wide range of services are provided including home support, day care services, community supports in partnership with voluntary groups, intermediate care (both residential and in the home) as well as long stay residential care when remaining at home is no longer a feasible option.

Day Care for older people provides a key component of the range of services available in the community and is delivered in a myriad of settings; day care attached to Day Hospitals, dementia specific day care, stand-alone day care centres under the governance of the HSE or through service level arrangements with voluntary agencies funded through S39 grant funding.

The 2020 National Service Plan includes the provision of 28,000 places per week across 300 day care centres for Older Person's Services.

The term 'day care services' covers a wide range of services and activities, which cater for a variety of people and needs and serve a number of different purposes, most of which are broadly preventative, including: -

- Providing social interaction and stimulation; reducing isolation and loneliness
- Maintaining and/or restoring independence
- Providing a break for carers; effective in reducing caregiver stress
- Providing personal care such as bathing & showering
- Offering activities that provide mental and physical stimulation
- Enabling care and monitoring of frail and vulnerable older people
- Assisting recovery and rehabilitation after an illness or accident
- Promoting health and nutrition through the provision of hot meals

The spread of COVID-19 throughout our communities has posed significant challenges for many areas of our Older Person's Services, particularly Day Care Services which ceased on the basis of Public Health advice at the outset of the Pandemic.



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At present, the CHOs are in the process of restoring day care service and guidance has issued to the areas to support the restoration of services for older people and persons living with dementia. The HSE continues to work closely with providers and community staff to identify where service is most required. This is to ensure, insofar as possible, that Day Care Services can resume in the context of COVID-19 and having regard for Public Health advice. The requirements of physical distancing must be encouraged, supported and maintained so as to keep our staff and service users safe and prevent any further spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People