



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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16th March 2020

Deputy James Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: james.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 3609/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential places for persons with a disability being provided at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available by CHO.

PQ 3610/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability at the end of February 2020, by local health office area.

HSE Response

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €1.9 billion in 2019.

Approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,300 places, or 75%. The HSE itself provides 1,300 or 16% of the places.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at end of Q4, 2019, broken down by each Community Health Care Organisation.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available Quarter 4 2019
CHO 1	713
CHO 2	846
CHO 3	897
CHO 4	1,068
CHO 5	915
CHO 6	634

CHO 7	1,106
CHO 8	854
CHO 9	1,157
Grand Total	8,190

Emergency Placements

The HSE National Service Plan 2019 provided for €15m investment (90 Emergency Residential places) in respect of the provision of planned responses under this category.

The table below shows the number of new emergency residential placements provided to end of 2019, broken down by CHO Area.

CHO Area	New Residential Placements
1	6
2	8
3	12
4	6
5	8
6	8
7	13
8	9
9	10
Total	80

The need for increased residential and respite facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available. A significant underlying challenge relates to the latent unmet need for residential and respite care, which exists in our services as a result of the absence of multi-annual investment during the economic downturn. At the same time, our national database figures indicate an annual requirement of 400 residential places per year to meet identified needs. As a result of this we are now experiencing a high annual demand for emergency residential places to respond to the most urgent cases on our waiting list.

In recognising the service pressures and capacity issues in the sector, for 2019, each CHO and all providers of residential services were required to implement measures to maximise to the greatest possible extent, the use of existing residential capacity and improve overall value for money in this sector. A range of control measures have been implemented at CHO level over the past two years to ensure that all service providers at local level prioritise the placement of the most urgent cases. In addition, in order to achieve this objective, the HSE has established an improvement programme involving the establishment of a dedicated team at national level with responsibility for co-ordination and oversight of all residential places.

2020 Developments.

In 2020, Disability Services has been allocated c. €2 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country to children and adults with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism, including Residential and other services (respite Services, Day Services, Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports).

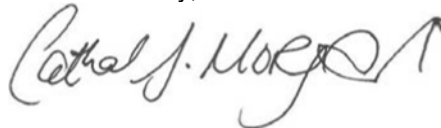
The following detail sets out, at a high level specific to Residential services, the anticipated service activity levels that are being delivered commensurate with this substantial state investment. In 2020, the HSE will:

- Provide in excess of 8,000 residential places
- Provide an additional 56 new emergency residential placements
- Provide eight appropriate residential places for people currently living in respite care as an emergency response to their needs, while also freeing up the vacated respite accommodation for future use
- Provide 144 intensive transitional support packages for children and young people with complex / high support needs focusing on families experiencing substantial levels of support need, but who do not require a high cost long term placement. Specifically, this new development initiative is the pre-crisis intervention stage and will include planned residential respite interventions as well as other interventions.

The increase in funding for disability services in recent years has been welcome and the HSE acknowledges the announcement of an additional €30.5m for Disability Services in the recently published National Service Plan, including €5m allocated for emergency residential placements.

The HSE works in partnership with service providers to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the resources available. There is continuous engagement between the HSE, the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and these agencies to ensure resources are prioritised on the basis of meeting the needs of people with a disability and those caring for them.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations