



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Cian O Callaghan
Dail Eireann,
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Dear Deputy O Callaghan

The Health Service Executive 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 7039/20

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of the National Strategy and Policy for the Provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland; if the targets for 2019 have been met; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

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.

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. Considering the scale of fundamental change proposed it was decided to advance a demonstrator project across CHO 6 & 7 (which includes Peamount Healthcare, the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook and the National Rehabilitation Hospital) ahead of National roll-out.

The learning from the demonstrator project will inform implementation of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy across each CHO.

Work on developing the necessary operational structures to support Network Functioning across the demonstrator area continues and the 'design phase' of the model is at an advanced stage. Funding for a 10-bed Neurorehabilitation Unit at Peamount Hospital has also been approved. Recruitment for this unit is currently underway and it is hoped that the unit will be operational by Q3 2020.

The capital project at the National Rehabilitation Hospital is also nearing completion and will be operational within in the coming weeks. The new building has capacity for 120 patients which is an uplift of approx 20 beds. Funding has also been approved for staffing to support this increased capacity.

The 2019 target for Neurorehabilitation, as outlined in the HSE Service Plan was to 'Commence a pilot project in CHO 6 and 7 to support the roll-out of the National Policy and Strategy for the Provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015'. As such, the 2019 target agreed in the Service Plan has been met as work on the demonstrator is progressing.

With respect to targets proposed in the Implementation Framework itself, targets have not all been met however progress is being made across the CHO's with respect to identifying Leads and establishing Local Implementation Teams.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Disability Strategy and Planning