



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

9th November 2020,
Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 34929/20

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding and status of the Mental Health Transfer Project; the number of properties involved in the project; the number transferred; the number awaiting transfer; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Government's National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability was published in October 2011 jointly by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and the Department of Health. The strategy comprises 9 strategic aims and covers the period up to 2016. The publication of the Strategy was followed in July 2012 with the publication of an Implementation Framework that broke the 9 Strategic Aims into 80 Priority Actions.

The Priority Actions outline the detailed measures to assist in addressing effectively the housing and related support needs of people with disabilities.

STRATEGIC AIM 5 relates to the housing needs of people with mental health difficulties. The aim gives effect to the housing commitments contained in the Government's mental health policy, A Vision for Change, in relation to meeting the housing needs of people with mental health difficulties, who have low and medium support needs, within communities. In recognition of the complex nature of a mental health difficulty, a range of targeted responses are required to facilitate individuals to maintain housing and support independent living. There are 4 Priority Actions setting out how this aim is going to be achieved and who is responsible for their delivery.

One of the four actions is to **facilitate the effective transitioning of people with mental health disabilities from HSE mental health facilities to appropriate community settings within sustainable communities (Priority Action 5.3)**

The detail of how this action is to be achieved is outlined in more detail in 5 Key Measures as follows:



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

5.3.1 The transitioning of people with low and medium support needs, from HSE mental health facilities to more appropriate community based arrangements, will be supported through an effective inter agency management structure, in line with a person centred planning approach and individual choice.

5.3.2 The transfer of low and medium support HSE community residences to the ownership and management of local authorities will be progressed in line with agreed structures and timelines, informed by the outcomes of a conditions survey to be under taken by the Housing Agency.

5.3.3 The transitioning process will be underpinned by commitments from the HSE to the ongoing provision of relevant mental health supports, to people with low and medium supports needs, within new community arrangements. These supports will be delivered through multidisciplinary community mental health teams and appropriate protocols will be developed.

5.3.4 The proposals for the transitioning of people with low and medium support needs from HSE mental health facilities will be supported by all relevant agencies involved in the delivery of services to people with disabilities.

5.3.5 People currently residing in low and medium support community residences, which will transfer to the ownership of housing authorities, will be supported to achieve more independent living arrangements, where their support needs lessen.

Current Position:

Of the nine Community Health Organisations (CHOs), within mental health, six of these are engaged with the transfer project. The other three CHOs did not have properties that fell within the project scope, i.e., owned by the HSE and at low or medium support category.

So far 5 properties and their residents have successfully been transferred over to Approved Housing Bodies and the residents concerned have now become tenants with the AHB. A tenancy support model is being used whereby the AHB provides a Tenancy Support Officer to support tenants while the HSE provides the clinical supports in the community. This is a recovery focused approach and has proved very successful in maintaining tenants in their homes.

There are another 57 properties across the country within the scope of the transition project at different stages of the transfer process. There is no doubt that the current Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on progressing the



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

project further in 2020. That said, work is continuing with the properties in terms of getting legal checks completed and surveys carried out.

CHO AREA	No. of Properties
1	9
2	3
3	12
5	20
7	9
8	3
Total	57

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services