



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
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8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Deputy Thomas Pringle  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Pringle,

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: 38931/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the counties needing investment in disability services in tabular form; the way in which the needs are being prioritised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### HSE Response

In 2020, Disability Services has been allocated c. €2 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country across all CHO Areas and is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services are provided according to need and include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports. The table below provides a breakdown of the total spend over the last two years by service area.

Service area	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2020 funding %
Residential Places	1,185,355	1,254,923	61%
Day Services	433,254	477,382	23%
Respite	56,212	70,677	3%
PA & Home Support	84,909	94,885	5%
Multidisciplinary Support (WTEs)	88,557	98,704	5%
Other Community Services & Supports	55,338	57,929	3%
	1,903,625	2,054,500	100%

#### Additional funding;

The HSE and disability service providers recognise the critical need and importance of disability supports for people and their families. The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives has and continues to be very significant. Our collective aim is to restore services and ensure continuity of services in a safe way and in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies.

In this context, we welcome the recent announcements from the Government of additional funding for Disability Services:

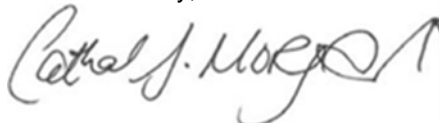
- An additional €100 million secured for Disability Services in the recent budget.
- €10 million is being made available to support the resumption of day services and enhanced home support services for disability service users. The €10 million funding is being drawn down from the National Action Plan on COVID-19 - €7.5 million will increase the level of day service provision and €2.5 million will provide intensive support packages for children and young people with complex/high support needs.
- €20 million in one-off grants will be provided to reform disability services, build the capacity of disability organisations and to improve the quality of life of those who rely on these services.
- €7.8 million has been allocated by Sláintecare to facilitate the HSE and its funded service providers to address the overdue Assessments of Need.

With regard to day service provision, since September 2020 there has been two allocations of funding aimed at increasing the quantum of service provision. €5m was allocated for the following:-

- To refurbish buildings and thereby increase the physical capacity available for location based day service supports.
- To provide increased transport services to enable people to access day service locations.
- To acquire short term arrangements with Sports Clubs, Community Centres etc to acquire additional space to enable people access more time at locations.

€7.5m as outlined above was allocated by the Department of Health to enable those day service staff that have been redeployed to residential services to return to their day service locations and provide more support for the 14,000 day service recipients that live at home with their families

Yours sincerely,



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