



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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20th October 2020

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: holly.cairns@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 29549/20

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ring-fence funding for support services for persons with disabilities to enable the 2,900 persons with disabilities living in congregated settings to live in homes in the community in Budget 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings

In June 2011 the Report “Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion” was published, which identified that in 2008 approximately 4,000 individuals with disabilities lived in congregated type settings, defined as where ten or more people reside in a single living unit or are campus based. It found that notwithstanding the commitment and initiative of dedicated staff and management, that there were a significant number of people still experiencing institutional living conditions where they lacked basic privacy and dignity, and lived their lives apart from any community and family.

The report initially recommended a seven year timeframe for the implementation of the policy and the 2016 Programme for Government identified that there should be a one- third reduction in the number of individuals residing on congregated settings by the year 2021, which reflects the continued commitment of the Government to the policy of decongregation, whilst acknowledging that the process of supporting each person to transition from a congregated setting to a community based service in a sustainable and safe way, requires planning and time.

Status of congregated Settings

Time to Move On from Congregated Settings is progressing and continues to demonstrate very positive results for service users who have transitioned to living in homes in community settings. Overall, the population in congregated settings is 50% lower than those identified in the original report:

- A total of 945 people have completed their transition to the community by 01/01/2020 and now there are less than 2,000 people remaining in congregated settings.
- 16 centres have closed completely and now support residents entirely in the community
- There are 19 centres that now have less than 10 people remaining in the setting/campus.



Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

- There are 1,494 residents (76%) now living in units with no more than nine other people and of this 343 residents (18%) are living in units with no more than three others.
- There are only 13 campus's with more than 50 residents remaining compared to 24 settings in 2012.
- In 2012 the largest campus was home to 227 residents and the largest residential building was home to 112 people. Currently, the largest campus has 145 residents and the largest residential building has 28 residents.

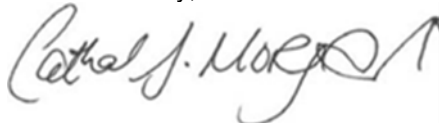
Resources committed by HSE under this Programme

The overall aim of the policy is to move from a situation where people live isolated lives apart from any community and from families, with many experiencing institutional living conditions where they lack basic privacy and dignity, to a scenario where people live in their own 'homes' and are facilitated to have opportunities to grow their lives and be connected in their communities. The following resources were committed to this Programme:

- **Multi Annual Capital Funding 2016-2021** - In 2016 the DOH announced €10million in capital funding was allocated to the HSE over a six year period from 2016-2021 specifically for the provision of housing in order to enable progress to be made in the decongregation of a number of priority sites.
- **Service Reform Fund 2016-2019** - A Service Reform Fund was also agreed between Atlantic Philanthropies, the DoH, the HSE and Genio Trust targeted to provide transitional revenue resources to support the transition to person-centred models of services and support in prioritised centres. A total of €27million was allocated to the identified priority settings over the period 2016-2019.
- **Revenue for HIQA Compliance 2016** - In 2016 a very significant investment in disability services of €62m was made to Improve Compliance with National Residential Standards as Regulated by HIQA. This investment supported the full year costs of the compliance work and emergency places approved by the HSE and commenced in 2015, along with the accelerated implementation of A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings in respect of residential centres where compliance could not be achieved.
- **Targeted Additional Revenue for decongregation** - additional ongoing revenue resources in the region of €60million were also invested across three of the priority congregated sites to address identified critical core funding deficits. The allocation of this additional revenue funding was contingent on the services substantially progressing the decongregation targets and addressing HIQA compliance issues.

In addition, the HSE welcomes the announcement of an additional €100 million secured for Disability Services in the recent budget. The specific breakdown of this investment will be discussed as part of the normal service planning process and will be detailed in the Letter of Determination from the Department of Health. However, the HSE anticipates that significant funding will be allocated to the Decongregation Programme.

Yours sincerely,



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