



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

18th September 2020

Straitéis agus Pleanáil Oifig na Míchumas,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of Disability Strategy and Planning,
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Deputy David Cullinane,
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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 21131/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of implementing the Plan for Effective Participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Transforming Lives' is the programme to implement the changes informed by the recommendations of the report "Value for Money and Policy Review of the Disability Services in Ireland (2012)".

Working Group 3, one of six National Cross-Sector Working Groups set up by the HSE and governed by a National Steering Group which reported to the Minister of State for Mental Health, Primary Care and Social Care (Disabilities and Older People), produced the plan 'Effective Participation in Decision Making – Planning for Ordinary Lives in Ordinary Places'.

This was formally launched by Minister Finian McGrath on 24th September 2018.

The report was developed by people with disabilities, family members, organisations working with people with disabilities and representatives from the HSE. It provides positive and constructive solutions to giving a real voice to people with a disability in terms of how their services/supports are developed and delivered into the future.

- Part 1 lays out the four core values of Autonomy, Respect, Creative Responses and Mutual Support which those involved in developing the Plan agree are at the heart of effective participation in decision-making.
- Part 2 identifies the range of supports that are needed to ensure the effective participation of people with a disability and their families in decision-making processes. These include:
 - Changing and challenging attitudes through disability and equality awareness training for all
 - Making communication accessible for everyone and addressing physical and structural accessibility deficits
 - More efficient meetings through advanced planning, facilitated chairing and small group discussions



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

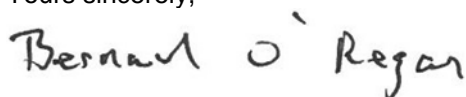
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- Achieving change using proofing and feedback systems
- Part 3 is about strategies. An integrated strategy comprising four strategic goals will ensure people with a disability and families can effectively participate in decision-making within the HSE and HSE funded agencies.
 - The first strategic goal sets out the criteria for the legislative and policy context for effective participation in decision-making.
 - The second goal of building a national infrastructure, will strengthen the representation of people with a disability in the development of strategy, policy and practice.
 - The third strategic goal identifies processes and mechanisms to redress negative cultural attitudes and assumptions about disability which present barriers to effective participation in decision-making.
 - The fourth strategic goal consolidation will ensure that effective participation in decision making is firmly embedded in strategy, planning, policy and practice into the future.

In order to deliver on the report's key recommendations appropriate structures and supports would need to be put in place across services to ensure that individuals with a disability are trained and have the appropriate supports systems in place to enable them to represent their needs (in line with Part 2 of the report outlined above).

The HSE Disability Services acknowledge that service user engagement is critical in relation to delivering health services. It is estimated that €1m in funding is required to ensure and support service user engagement through meeting costs incurred to service users as part of their engagement. The role of the service user is central to delivering effective, quality and outcome focused health services.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Disability Strategy and Planning