



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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28th September 2020

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 22350/20

To ask the Minister for Health when disability services will resume operation; the additional budget that has been allocated to meet the costs of adhering to public health advice; and the additional allocation to each service provider nationally in tabular form.

PQ 24150/20

To ask the Minister for Health the additional funding he will make available to disability service providers; and the organisations he has received detailed additional budgetary needs from in tabular form with their additional budget lines.

HSE Response

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

The HSE acknowledges the role and contribution of non-statutory agencies in the development and provision of health and personal social services

In addition, the HSE would like to acknowledge the contribution of and engagement between Service Providers and the HSE during the ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that there will be cost pressures in respect of facilities modification, PPE expenses, and potential increased staffing costs to mitigate against activity delivery restrictions inherent with working alongside the continued presence of COVID-19 in the short to medium term and maintaining the prevailing social distancing and infection prevention and control requirements.

During the public health emergency, the HSE developed and circulated Financial Guidance re COVID Related Expenditure & Section 38/39 Provider Organisations, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to

CHOs regarding potential service and related financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for providers delivering 'essential' or 'core' Health and Social Care services during the COVID-19 Emergency Response.

Please note that the guidance is temporary and remains applicable for the duration of the emergency only.

Supports provided by CHOs to organisations during the pandemic include the following:

- PPE continues to be provided to all funded agencies.
- Infection Prevention and Control support, advice and training continues.
- Public Health advice/support is ongoing with regard to suspected/positive cases.
- Residential Preparedness Groups
- Facilitating the testing of all residential staff.
- A COVID response Team to assist and support residential service providers. This team will now oversee and support the reshaping of disability services as a result of COVID 19.
- Funding for emergency residential placements
- A regular call/forum with all funded agencies to support them throughout the duration of the crisis
- Accommodation;
- Logistics in the form of transport.

With regard to funding, CHOs are having ongoing discussions in general with some of the organisations in their areas. While additional funding has been agreed in some areas, in the main, additional funding has yet to be disbursed in this regard as a period of review, analysis and validation is required to determine the legitimate necessity for additional funding above 2020 pre-COVID agreed levels.

The HSE welcomes the recent announcement from Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD and Minister of State for Disability Anne Rabbitte TD that €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.

Resumption of Disability Services

In respect of the provision of Disability Services and in the context of the Governments Resilience & Recovery Framework (2020 – 2021), the HSE regards the provision of disability services as essential to maintaining a response to people with a disability. As services are resuming, all disability services must follow public health guidance in this area, including the prevention and management of covid related infection. The HSE and its funded disability partners will continue to provide residential, including respite, day services and children's services in line with public health guidance and direction and having regard to the availability of staffing resources.

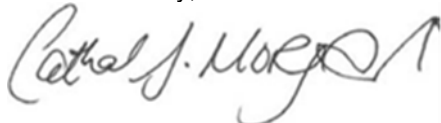
Reference is drawn to the following HSE weblink which provides updates and guidance for disability service providers, including 'service resumption planning guidance':

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

Attention is also drawn to the following important web links which provides up to date information resources in respect of covid: www.hspc.ie

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Yours sincerely,



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