



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Wynne

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 52974/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the expenditure to date in 2021 to decongregate under 65s from nursing home residential settings (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: There will also be a renewed focus on assisting people to move out of congregated settings to homes in the community and addressing the inappropriate placement of young people with disabilities in nursing homes." gov.ie - Budget 2021: €4 billion to protect, reform and expand health and social care services and implement universal healthcare (www.gov.ie).

**HSE Response**

A project commenced in 2021 to support 18 people under NSP 2021 to move from Nursing Home Care to the Community. A budget of €3million was secured for this, which equates to €166,000 per person for direct care support hours. This project is being delivered by the Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area is working within this budget. There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

The National Placement Oversight and Review Team (NPORT) are supporting a number of CHO Areas conducting reviews and assessments to inform person centred care and transition plans.

The work to support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, is being delivered on the basis of the will and preference of each person.

As each individual's situation and circumstances are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken. Supports will be put in place as required based on each individual's needs.

The HSE will be working in collaboration with service providers, the person and their families, where this is the wish of the person, to put in place the supports that will enable each person to move.

Each CHO is required to support two disabled people under the age of 65 who wish to move to a more suitable living arrangement in 2021. As mentioned above, a total allocation of €3m was allocated in National

Service Plan 2021 to fund this. This funding is to fund the discovery process, planning, engagement, setting up and delivery of services to each of the participants.

With regard to the expenditure to date in 2021 to decongregate under 65s from nursing home residential settings, information regarding the expenditure is currently being finalised.

The HSE has appointed a Project Lead under the Service Reform Fund to undertake a mapping exercise of the current population of people under the age of 65 in nursing homes to determine the level of need and funding, both for supports and housing, and to develop the pathway to appropriate support arrangements. This work will be concluded in mid-2022.

It is important to note that this is a pilot project and a key outcome will be to determine the overall requirements and costs associated with the transitioning of people from nursing homes: revenue, once off and ongoing, pay and non-pay and the minor capital and capital costs. It is expected that there will be a range in funding required to support each person which will be influenced by:

- level and type of support needed,
- the current funding arrangements (potential for de-bundling),
- planned post- transition arrangement (alternative community residential service, personalised budget, return to existing family home etc).

The additional care options and true cost of decongregation for the people in nursing homes is still being explored as in many cases these are the cohort of residents that remain in these settings due to the requirement for significant nursing supports and appropriate accommodation

Yours sincerely



**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**