



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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7th December 2021

Deputy Pauline Tully
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully

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: 57362/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons under 65 years of age inappropriately placed in nursing homes that will be supported to leave nursing homes using the €5.5 million funding allocated in Budget 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 €3 million 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.

To support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, the HSE will be working in collaboration with service providers, the person and their families, where this is the wish of the person. As each individual's situation and circumstances are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken. Supports will be based on each individual's needs.

Each CHO is leading the transition of at least two people based on the allocations in the National Service Plan, 2021. The support needs of each person are assessed and as mentioned above, this subsequently informs the transition plan and support for the person. CHOs are on track to meet the target for 2022 and a summary report will be compiled at that stage to inform further developments in this area.

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:

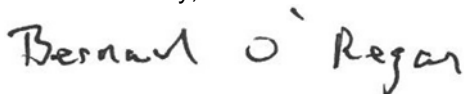
- level and type of support needed,
- the current funding arrangements (potential for de-bundling),
- planned post- transition arrangement (alternative community residential service, personalised budget, return to existing family home etc).

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.

As mentioned above, a mapping exercise will be concluded in mid-2022.

With regard to the question concerning the numbers of persons under 65 years of age that will be supported to leave nursing homes using the €5.5 million funding allocated in Budget 2022, the HSE awaits the publication of the 2022 HSE Service Plan.

Yours Sincerely,



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