



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

20th October 2021

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: danny.healyrae@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 48967/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that the required funding is made available to safeguard the necessary services and ensure lifelong supports for persons with intellectual and physical disabilities and assist ageing parents and carers who are struggling to manage.

HSE Response

Disability services are provided to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism in community, day, respite and residential settings. Services include personal assistant, home support, multi-disciplinary and other community supports. Services are delivered through a mix of HSE direct provision as well as through non-statutory section 38 / 39 service providers and private providers. The HSE works in partnership with agencies to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability and their families, within the resources available.

All funded services are required to deliver safe and effective services within a defined budget allocation. The HSE must ensure that it prioritises available resources on the basis of meeting the health and social needs of people with a disability.

There is continuous engagement between the HSE, the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and these agencies to ensure resources are prioritised on the basis of meeting the needs of people with a disability and those caring for them.

HSE Disability Services has been allocated c. €2.2 billion in 2021. This funding is providing Disability Services throughout the country to children and adults with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism.

The funding reflects an incremental increase in the provision of funding to the Disability service as follows;

2014: €1.4 billion
2015: € 1.5 billion
2016; € 1.6 billion
2017: € 1.7 billion
2018: € 1.8 billion
2019: € 1.9 billion

2020; € 2.1 billion

2021; € 2.2 billion

The National Service Plan 2021 priorities include:

- The provision of 102 additional residential places comprising of 44 emergency places, 36 planned residential places, in response to current and demographic need. .
- The provision of nine additional centre-based services, providing some 10,400 additional respite nights along with a range of alternative respite projects including Saturday clubs, breakaway schemes, and summer schemes
- The provision of 214 intensive respite support packages to children and young adults
- Delivery of 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports to expand and enhance supports for people to live self-directed lives in their own communities.
- Day services
- Provision of an additional 1,700 day services places, delivered in line with the New Directions policy, for school leavers and graduates of rehabilitative training
- Protection of full time service supports for the 5,000 people that receive both day and residential services and enhance the day service provision for the 14,500 day attenders by increasing their current COVID-19 impacted service from 40% (equivalent to 2 days per week) to 60% (equivalent to 3 days per week)

The increase in funding for disability services in recent years and the commitments given in the National Service Plan has been welcome.

Demographics

However, notwithstanding the above information, the HSE is aware that people with disabilities are living longer and adults with intellectual disability have age-related illnesses and conditions. In addition, more people with a disability have more complex needs. Of people reporting with a disability, the number of people aged 35 years and over with moderate, severe and profound intellectual disability has increased from 28.5% in 1974 to 49.3% in 2016 (NIDD, 2016). There are 10,679 people who will require alternative, additional or enhanced services in the period 2017-2021. Around 15% of over-60s with intellectual disabilities live with family members, usually with sibling or parents. Given the ages of all those involved, most of these arrangements will not be sustainable.

This change in demographics, increased life expectancy and changing needs for those with both a physical and sensory disability, and an intellectual disability has led to a significant increase in the need for disability services across all settings. This includes day supports, residential and respite services, personal assistant and home support services.

Disability services focus on enabling people with disabilities to achieve their full potential, living ordinary lives in ordinary places, as independently as possible while ensuring that the voices of service users and their families are heard, and that they are fully involved in planning and improving services to meet their needs.

To meet the challenges from the increase in the number of people living with disability, the increase in age and life expectancy both of the person with the disability and their carer and the changing needs of people with a disability, collaborative working is required across the wider health and social care setting with the aim of improving access to services for all people with disability. It is important to recognise that the needs of people with a disability extend well beyond health service provision, and the health service will participate fully with other governmental departments and services in the development of cross-sectoral strategies to maximise access to services and supports for people with disabilities.

Disability services have a significant programme of reform which is informing new models of service provision. Transforming Lives sets out the recommendations of the Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services in Ireland, 2012. It provides the framework for the implementation of the recommendations of Time to Move on from Congregated Settings, 2011 in respect of residential centres to support the transition of people from institutional settings to community-based living. The New Directions

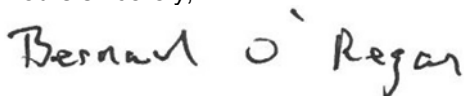
programme is improving day services and aims to meet the needs of school leavers and young people graduating from rehabilitation training. Taken together, the implementation of these programmes will enable us to maximise the use of existing resources and develop sustainable models of service provision with positive outcomes for service users, delivering best value for money and moving towards an inclusive model of community-based services and supports.

In addition, the HSE welcomes the recent publication of the Department of Health's "Disability Capacity Review to 2032 -A Review of Disability Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements up to 2032". The Capacity Review provides detailed evidence of the extent of demographic and unmet need and provides detailed estimates of service and expenditure requirements for:

- residential care
- adult day services
- personal assistance and home support
- multidisciplinary therapies
- respite, and other community services and supports.

The Capacity Review emphasises the importance of a planned approach to meeting current and future requirements and the critical need for a multi-annual current and capital funding programme to secure effective and timely delivery, at the most reasonable cost. The HSE strongly welcomes this recommendation and agrees that detailed forward planning underpinned by multi-annual investment is required to ensure that services become available where and when they are needed.

Yours sincerely,



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