



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>

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [Fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy O'Dowd

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 51802/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the way he plans to provide additional care options for young people with a disability who wish to reside outside of nursing home settings and who wish to live independently; 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 €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 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

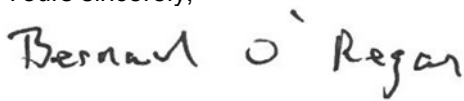
funding, both for supports and housing, and to develop the pathway to appropriate support arrangements. This work will be concluded in mid-2022.

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.

Yours sincerely,



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