



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/Community Operations,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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

3rd November 2021

Deputy Joe Carey
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: joe.carey@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Carey,

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: 51896/21

To ask the Minister for Health the role local authorities will play in drawing down funding in terms of building and securing suitable accommodation in view of commitment of additional resources in Budget 2022 to address the inappropriate placement of persons with disabilities in nursing homes; when this funding will be made available; if funding allocations will be made to each CHO; if not, if this fund will be administered on a national basis; 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.

Each CHO is leading the transition of at least two people based on the allocations in NSP 21. The support needs of each person are assessed and 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 areas.

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.

This is a pilot project and a key outcome will be to determine the overall funding 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 costs per person provided are an average. There are significantly large variations depending on the support needs of the individuals and the current funding arrangements.



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

The 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.

Minor Capital / One off Revenue Funding:

Where a person can access social or other available mainstream housing options, minor capital funding and access to once off non-pay revenue funding may be a key enabler to provide for the works /equipping needed to facilitate the person to move into their home. The provision of €250,000 per person is intended to allow some scope for once off non-pay revenue costs during the initial project as the cost model is teased out.

Capital Funding:

Delivering appropriate housing for the people transitioning from the nursing home settings will need to be achieved through a number of different options depending on support and housing needs. Funding for housing projects under the HSE Capital funding stream, in line with the Time To Move on policy, may be required to support the transition of people from nursing homes to community, where a person is transitioning to a community residential service.

The responsibility for the provision of housing for all those individuals or households that have applied for and are eligible for social housing support rests with the local authorities under the Department of Housing.

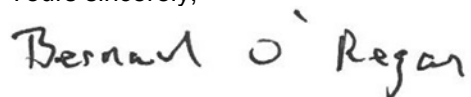
Within the disability sector, where appropriate, individuals are supported by the service providers to apply to their local authority for social housing.

The National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities 2011-2016 which was extended to 2021, is the current National Strategy that guides the delivery of housing for people with disabilities.

Under this Strategy the Housing and Disability Steering Groups in each local authority develop the strategic plans for that area. These groups are chaired by the local authority and include representatives from the housing and disability sectors. Significant work has been underway during 2021 to review the National Strategy which has included public consultation and a series of workshops, to determine the content on the new Strategy.

With regard to the provision of funding to the HSE next year, we have not as yet received the Letter Of Determination or the written/agreed National Service Plan. We cannot indicate what funding provision will be made to CHOs at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



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