



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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21st September 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 questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 41651/21

To ask the Minister for Health the capacity level each adult disability day service provider provided after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted to allow them to reopen; the amount of funding that was allocated to each adult disability day service provider to enable them to expand their capacity; the capacity level each adult disability day service provider provided after receiving this funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ:41652/21

To ask the Minister for Health the adult disability day service providers which applied for funding to enable them to expand their capacity after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted to allow them to reopen; the adult disability day service providers which did not apply for funding to enable them to expand their capacity after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted to allow them to reopen; and if he will make a statement on the matter

HSE Response

In line with public health guidance, at the outset of the pandemic, adult day services, along with many other services, were significantly reduced to limit exposure to COVID-19.

The HSE acknowledges the impact and effects of the closure of day centres for adults with disabilities during the current COVID-19 pandemic and is fully cognisant of the stress this can cause to people with disabilities and their families.

To mitigate the difficulties, the HSE engaged with providers to ensure that where possible, some level of service was maintained, based on prioritising those with the greatest needs. In this respect, Providers continued to provide outreach supports to people in the greatest need.

While Day service locations closed in mid-March of 2020, service supports continued for day service recipients albeit in a different way.

Day Service locations commenced reopening in August 2020 for all recipients of adult disability day services. Time related savings were subsequently identified and used to address some of the disability day service pressures experienced by the HSE and service providers.

Community Healthcare Organisations discussed the pressures with all their day service providers to ensure that the deployment of the resource maximised day service supports available to service users.

An allocation of once off funding was notified to each CHO in September 2020. Funding was allocated to providers by the CHO as per local CHO/provider discussions and agreement. The Once-Off funding was used by providers as follows:

- To refurbish existing buildings, where available, which resulted in extra space, increased capacity and enabled more service users to attend at a location each day.
- To procure short term use of existing community facilities such as Community Centres, GAA sports halls etc. in order to provide additional capacity enabling more service users attend at a location for the duration of COVID.
- To address some of the transport pressures notified that were prohibiting people from attending at day service locations due to lack of transport.

When day service locations reopened in August 2020 there was still a significant number of day service staff redeployed to support residential services. Funding was allocated for 605 posts in residential services to enable day service staff to return to day service locations and still maintain the continuity of residential services.

The guidance provided through the Resumption Group for Disability Day Service as well as the funding allocated by the CHOs to their day service providers enabled the continued increase in resumption of services for service users. Day service provision currently averages 60% nationally.

In line with the Government Roadmap "Reframing the challenge, continuing our recovery and reconnecting" Day service locations are developing their roadmaps to achieve full 100% restoration to pre-COVID 19 level of service for each day service user by October 22nd

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations