



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
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21st September 2021

Deputy Bernard Durkan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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: 43563/21

To ask the Minister for Health the level of funding assigned to residential care provision for children with complex needs in each of the past five years to date; the extent to which each allocation has been fully utilised; the area in which expenditure was the most prevalent; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €2.1 billion in 2020.

Approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,300 places, or 75%. The HSE itself provides 1,300 or 16% of the places.

The table below provides an analysis of the spend on Residential Places for 2018-2020. We don't have this level of detail for previous years as we only commenced aligning the breakdown with the Estimates Process in 2018.

Service area	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2020 funding %
Residential Places	1,111,110	1,185,355	1,254,923	61%

The need for increased residential facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available. A significant underlying challenge relates to the latent unmet need for residential and respite care, which exists in our services as a result of the absence of multi-annual investment during the economic

downturn. As a result of this we are now experiencing a high annual demand for emergency residential places to respond to the most urgent cases on our waiting list.

HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which enables CHO Areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

The DSMAT provides a consistent listing process for each CHO Area by presenting a detailed profile of the individuals (Adults & Children) who require funded supports outside of the current service quantum.

It captures detailed information on home and family circumstance and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals, including specialised profiles of behavioural intensity, key diagnoses, and complex support needs due to the extent and intensity of intellectual and/or physical & sensory disability. It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services subject to budgetary constraints. This necessarily means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

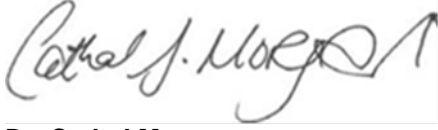
The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high, and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008.

The DSMAT has only recently become established in each of the CHO Areas, so 2019 and 2020 are the first years that we have complete national dataset. However, we can say that in previous years, funding has been allocated in the National Service Plan to provide for additional new emergency residential placements, as follows:

- The HSE responded to 474 “emergency places/cases” between 2014 and 2016.
- NSP 2017 made provision for 185 new emergency residential placements and new home support and in-home respite for 210 additional people who required emergency supports.
- NSP 2018 allocated funding for a further 130 new emergency places together with 255 new home support/in home respite supports for emergency cases.
- NSP 2019 provided for a €15m investment (90 Emergency Residential places) in respect of the provision of planned responses under this category.
- NSP 2020 provided for an additional 56 new emergency residential placements and eight appropriate residential places for people currently living in respite care as an emergency response to their needs, while also freeing up the vacated respite accommodation for future use – At end of December 2020, a total of 86 new emergency places were developed across the 9 CHOs.
- The HSE also committed to provide 144 intensive transitional support packages for children and young people with complex / high support needs, to include planned residential respite interventions and access to planned extended day / weekend and summer day based activities. However, at end of December 2020, a total of 857 intensive home support packages were developed across the 9 CHOs. The significant increase on the NSP target is indicative of the requirement for additional in-home services to compensate for the reduction in the delivery of traditional respite services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2021, the HSE has been allocated €5.5 million to develop 36 planned residential placements; €3 million to provide an additional 18 residential places for under 65’s currently residing in Nursing Home settings; and €5.2 million to implement the joint HSE and Tusla

interagency protocol, prioritising in 2021 co-funding the placement of 33 children and supporting the move of a number of young adults from Tusla to adult disability services. This will also include a further 4 in year Transitions from Tusla to HSE adult residential services.

Yours sincerely,



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