



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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11th October 2021

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: violetanne.wynne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 46500/21

To ask the Minister for Health the cost to the State to accommodate a disabled person in a residential setting or nursing home per annum.

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.

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €2.05 billion in 2020.

Disability services are delivered through a mix of HSE direct provision but largely through voluntary service providers, and private providers funded under Section 38 and Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 and governed by way of a Service Arrangement (SA) or Grant Aid Agreement (GA) via 9 Community Health Organisations. The HSE currently manages approximately 1,076 SAs or GAs with a total of 419 organisations.

With regard to funding and costings, 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.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the HSE is providing a response below to the specific questions raised:

The revenue cost for a residential place can range between €150,000 - €282,000 on average per person, depending on the person's support needs. However, it should also be noted that about 10% of placements have a requirement for intensive supports and the average cost for these placements is €546,000

The cost the state to accommodate disabled persons in residential settings in the disability services is outlined below.

The table provides an analysis of the spend on Residential Places for 2018-2020.

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%

In addition, 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 funding to develop an additional 102 new residential places, including 44 emergency places and 36 planned residential placements, 18 residential places for under 65's currently residing in Nursing Home settings, and 4 in year Transitions from Tusla to HSE adult residential services. At end of August 2021, 58 new emergency residential places were developed.

In addition, €5.2 million was allocated 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.

In respect of high cost residential placements, as a dedicated improvement programme to respond to high cost residential placements, the HSE established the 'National Placements Oversight & Review Team'. Phase 1 of this programme involved an independent clinical review of existing high cost placements and which is now complete. HSE is now developing the next phase of the programme to coincide with reform of the sector more generally and forthcoming publication of the Capacity review report.

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.

In respect of the current Estimates Process, the HSE has submitted a proposal for funding for a number of residential support packages in 2022, which includes planned and emergency residential places as well intensive support packages.

With regard to people with disabilities who are residing in Nursing Homes, the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act 2009 (NHSS) requires that a Financial Assessment be undertaken for all applicants who are deemed to require long term residential care. The format and detail of that assessment is laid out in the legislation and Guidelines and the HSE must implement same. The Financial Assessment provides for issues such as dependents and other expenses being included.

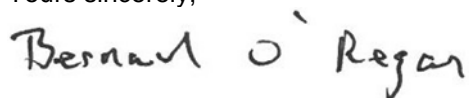
NHSS only applies for Registered Nursing Homes. Other centres may be registered for disability and therefore people residing there cannot avail of NHSS

The Nursing Home Support Scheme provides funding for long term placements in nursing homes. Although it is mainly utilised by people over 65 years - there is a cohort of approximately 1,200 people, some with disabilities and others who are medically compromised living in these homes.

A project commenced in 2021 with 18 people targeted to move at a cost of €3 million (€166,667 per person for direct care support hours). There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

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).

Yours sincerely,



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