



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

Head of Service - Older Persons
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Martin Kenny T.D.
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PQ ref 47447/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies in home care supports services in CHO1 as of 1 September 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The provision of Home Support Services are an important element to support Older People to continue to live in their own homes and community. Access to the Service is currently based on assessment of an Individual's needs. The CHO1 Home Support Service is funded each year to deliver a service as approved in the National Service Plan. CHO1 target hours has been set at 1,791,320 core hours, with an additional 555,000 hours allocated as part of the winter planning funding 2021.

Home Support Services in CHO1 are provided by both directly employed HSE Health Care Support Assistants and also by Voluntary/Private Providers who have a formal tender agreement with the HSE to deliver services. Preliminary data available indicates that service provision should be at least 1,963m hrs in 2021. This represents an increase of 333 k (20.4%) increase on the 2020 position.

In order to deliver these additional hours, all efforts by Service Managers and the Human Resource Departments have been utilised to increase the number of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSA) within the Service. CHO1 would estimate that an equivalent of 50WTE (either employed Directly or Indirectly) are required to deliver the services for people on the existing waiting list as at the end of August 2021. In addition estimates indicate that a further 125wte are required to maximise service provision under the Winter Plan allocation. The Service continues to liaise with HR locally and HBS nationally to ensure all avenues for recruitment continue to be fully explored.



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I trust this is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Frank Morrison
Head of Service - Older Persons CHO1