



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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8th April 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 18128/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the progress or otherwise in the implementation of the Neurorehabilitation Strategy 2019-2021; the number and dates of all meetings of the implementation group held to date; the current status of this strategy; if he will take steps to refocus his officials on this important strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy

The Implementation Framework for the Neurorehabilitation Strategy was launched on the 20th February 2019, and provides guidance for the development of specialist neurorehabilitation services across the continuum of care – from acute, to post-acute and community services.

Neuro-rehabilitation services play a critical role in supporting recovery and/or maximising ability of those with neurological conditions. We know from our own mapping exercises, that there is a dearth of neuro-rehabilitation services in both inpatient and community levels.

The plan to address this is described within the implementation framework for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy. It outlines a 10-step approach which will see each CHO introducing local implementation teams to oversee and guide the implementation process. It also describes a managed clinical rehabilitation network demonstrator project which is currently progressing through the development of post-acute and community neuro-rehabilitation services across CHO 6 & 7, with full year funding of €2.29m available from 2021. This funding included the establishment of 10 additional in-patient beds on the Peamount Healthcare campus with a complement of 26 staff which is now fully operational. Disability Services Community Healthcare Area 6 are currently working on the recruitment of five therapy posts, capital funding for the service has already been received and the location for the Community Neurorehabilitation Team (CNRT) has been identified. Disability Services Community Healthcare Area 7 are working with Primary Care to identify the location & governance for the Community Neurorehabilitation Team in this area and will progress to the recruitment of five therapy posts.



Key Messages:

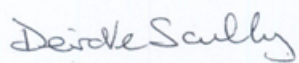
- The introduction of the first Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network in Ireland is hoped to be the exemplar for the national roll-out of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy.
- The project, funded by the SláinteCare Redesign Fund, involves the commissioning of 10 new beds at Peamount Healthcare and introducing Multi-disciplinary teams for CHOs 6 & CHO 7, serving patients with complex presentations who do not require inpatient facilities and those who need to transition from hospital to home.
- These new beds introduce some 3,500 additional specialist rehab bed days per annum into the system.
- With average length of stay of approx. 90 days, this means that 40 patients per annum will have their rehabilitation needs met in an appropriate setting outside of acute hospitals.
- The beds are expected to reduce the NRH waiting list by over 30%, and take direct referrals from AMNCH, SJH, SVUH, Beaumont & the Mater for patients with neurological conditions. The multidisciplinary teams will take referrals from hospitals and the NRH and ensure improved inpatient flow and reduced length of stay in the acute setting.

What we want to achieve through this demonstration pilot site MCRN:

- Person centred coordinated approach to patient care
- Development of appropriately resourced interdisciplinary inpatient, outpatient and home and community based specialist rehabilitation teams supported by education and training
- Introduction of the three-tier model of complexity-of-need
- Reduction in Waiting times for assessment and access to inpatient & community rehabilitation services
- Improved patients outcomes and experience
- Standardised pathway for people who require neuro rehabilitation
- Enhanced communication between inpatient and community services to support to delivery of the right care, in the right place, at the right time
- Build up a supporting infrastructure for the demonstration project to deliver neuro rehabilitation to patients as required across the continuum of care
- Develop a model of care that can be rolled out nationally

The National Steering Group met on three dates in 2020, the 26th February, 22nd October and 25th November. In 2021 the Programme Manager position was only filled for a period of six weeks, following the recruitment process in early January 2022 an additional Programme Manager is commencing in post in early May 2022. The National Steering Group met on 13th January 2022 with the March meeting postponed due to a number of the members not been available to attend the meeting. It is planned to schedule a further meeting of the National Steering Group in late April 2022.

Yours sincerely



Deirdre Scully
AND Change Planning and Delivery, Disability and Mental Health Services