

28th April 2022

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 19985/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on home support services and home support packages (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: “There is a huge shortage of Home Support workers in Kerry and throughout the country while trained staff are on a panel waiting to be called to work as Home support workers. What is being done to increase the number of home support staff in Kerry and throughout the country and to provide home support packages to all who need them?”

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is acutely aware that there are capacity issues across both direct and indirect provision of Home Support. We continue to advertise on an on-going basis for healthcare assistants and to recruit as many suitable candidates as possible. Due to the nature of the role of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs), this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going across the HSE.

Health Care Support Assistants have been successfully recruited for the Kerry Home Support service and are awaiting placement while Garda vetting is completed and references are obtained. Both processes must be satisfactorily completed in advance of commencing their roles as HCSAs. Prospective staff must be Garda vetted if their work or activity in the health service involves access to children or vulnerable adults, as stipulated in the *National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016*.

Induction training is scheduled for the coming weeks and it is anticipated that staff will commence their HCSA roles in early June.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons