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Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie> 2022

6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Tully,

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: 20461/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of expressions of interest that were received from persons to be part of the personalised budgets demonstration projects; the number of persons to date who have gained access to become part of a personalised budgets demonstration project; the timeframe for the findings from the personalised budgets demonstration projects to be finalised and published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20475/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the structures that have been put in place to enable service users to become active participants in the co-design of their care and support services as contained within the HSE Service Plan 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

**Personalised Budgets**

Personalised Budgets represents a welcome reform within the disability sector and the publication of the Taskforce Report 'Towards Personalised Budgets for People with a Disability in Ireland' (July 2018) demonstrated the commitment to exploring the development of this service option in Ireland.

Over the last number of years, in line with disability policy, bespoke individualised arrangements have been established for a number of individuals and in that regard, the HSE currently funds organisations (Áiseanna Tacaíochta and Possibilities Plus) whose core ethos is the development of individualised services.

The project aims to give people with disabilities more control in accessing health funded personal social services, giving them greater independence and choice in accessing services which best meet their individual needs.

The pilot Personalised Budget Project is currently in its demonstration phase, a total of 265 Expressions of Interest were received with 123 persons participating to date in various stages of the pilot and over the next 2-3 months it is anticipated that up to 180 persons will participate in the project by either establishing a person managed fund where they are managing the service themselves, by entering into a co-managed arrangement with a current service provider, or by utilising the services of a broker to purchase services.



The pilot Personalised Budget Project is open to adults with a disability who are currently in receipt of HSE funded services across a broad spectrum of services, including day services, residential services and respite services. It provides participants with more control in accessing health funded personal social services, giving each participant on the Pilot Personalised Budget Project greater independence and choice in accessing services which best meet their individual needs.

The view of the Task Force was that the final design of any system of personalised budgets in Ireland can only be decided upon once a series of initial demonstrator projects have been evaluated and the findings assessed, alongside the outcomes achieved by the person and the financial sustainability of the system as a whole.

### **Co-design of care and support services**

In September 2018 the HSE, under the Transforming Lives Programme (Programme to Implement the Recommendations of the 'Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services in Ireland) produced a report "Effective Participation in Decision-Making – Planning for Ordinary Lives in Ordinary Places" (Working Group 3). This report offers a route map for people with a disability which will ensure their effective participation in making decisions about the design and delivery of the supports they need to live ordinary lives in ordinary places.

The report demands that we all think about the values which should underpin efforts to achieve effective participation. It identifies significant barriers and details the supports required at every level of decision-making, from the individual to the local level in communities, from the regional level to the national. All these supports require attention and dedicated resources to deliver effective participation in decision-making. Finally, change will only be possible to achieve if there is a transformation in processes and structures to enable effective participation of people with disabilities and families in decision-making.

The HSE were successful in securing funding through the Service Reform Fund in October 2021 to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will support and enable people with a disability to engage in effective decision making with regard to the design and implementation of their support services. Inclusion Ireland have been engaged to work with the HSE in developing the SOP by September 2022.

The proposal is to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will support and enable people with a disability to engage in effective decision making with regard to the design and implementation of their support services. This would include the following:

- How people with a disability are recruited to sit on local and national Committees.
- How their support needs are met and costed to ensure their effective participation in decision making.
- How meetings are conducted to ensure individuals with a disability can participate and are adequately briefed in advance of the meeting and debriefed at the end of the meeting as appropriate.
- That all communications and papers for the meeting are in an accessible format.
- That venues for meetings are disability proofed and compliant.
- A process is developed for the individual to consult with the wider disability sector in advance of final decisions on future service design been implemented – reference panel developed.

In excess of 58,000 people with a disability and their families will have a clearly defined way of ensuring their voice is heard and accommodated in the design and implementation of future support services which will affect their ability to live ordinary lives in ordinary places. There will be very clear definitions / descriptions of the roles on committees and people with a disability will be supported to participate and fulfil their roles on the relevant committees on an on-going basis. All committee members will be empowered to support each other to participate in a meaningful way through better management of how meetings are conducted.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,**  
**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery – Disability and Mental Health Services**

