



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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15th December 2022

Deputy Roisin 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: 60216/22

To ask the Minister for Health the location of the existing community neuro-rehabilitation teams; the staffing complement of each team; the timeline for establishing a community neuro-rehabilitation team in each CHO, by CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing neuro-rehabilitation services in the community. The Health Service Executive is leading on the implementation framework in respect of the recommendations of the National Policy and Strategy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015.

The Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) was launched in February 2019. The overarching aim of the Strategy is the development of neuro-rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred neuro-rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway, and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary. These services are to be configured into population based managed clinical rehabilitation networks (MCRNs). The overarching aim is the development of population based MCRN's around the country.

In order to test the feasibility of this new MCRN model in the Irish context, a decision was made by the Neuro-Rehab Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO6 and CHO7 to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out. As part of the MCRN demonstrator project, funding was provided for the establishment of a Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) in CHO 6 and also CHO 7. Each team has been funded for 5 WTE, with the breakdown as follows per team:

- 1 x Senior Physiotherapist



- 1 x Senior Occupational Therapist
- 1 x Senior Speech and Language Therapist
- 1 x Senior Clinical Psychologist
- 1 x Administrative Support

In both CHO 6 and CHO 7, an agreement has been reached on location. Governance arrangements are in the final stages of negotiation and the HSE recruitment process should begin by year end.

Within CHO 3, a CNRT was set up in 2007 consisting of 6 WTE and within CHO 1 a CNRT is operational within the Donegal catchment only.

There is currently no CNRT operational within CHO 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9, however, moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to create a population-based Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team within each CHO or RHA following the implementation of the new Regional Health Areas within Slaintecare.

An additional two teams will be introduced to the demonstrator project in two new CHO's in 2023.

Yours Sincerely,



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