



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

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15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Deputy Martin Browne,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 60730/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health his plans to roll-out community neuro-rehabilitation teams to each community health area; the timeframe he estimates that such teams will be in place in each CHO; the timeframe he estimates that such a team will be available in CHO5; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 60731/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of community neuro-rehabilitation teams in each local health area with reference to the number of worktime equivalent posts filled and vacant in each team; 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 follow, 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.

Pre-dating the strategy, 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 Community Neuro-Rehab Team operational within CHO 2, 4, 5, 8, 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**

