



17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 5578/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to allow families on the homecare waiting list to use their homecare package to organise their own care in situations in which the HSE and homecare agencies used by the HSE are not in a position to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

NSP 2022 provides for the following: -

- Rollover of the 2021 target levels of service into 2022, inclusive of the additional 5m hours funded in 2021 to 23.67m hours nationally
- 360,000 hours provided via Intensive Home Care Packages
- 230,000 hours associated with the roll-out of the pilot Statutory Home Support Scheme, which commenced in late 2021

Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS) was launched in 2018, and was included as part of the Tender Framework Arrangements that commenced on 01 September 2018. It is an option for clients who wish to have more control and choice over their care delivery in keeping with the principles of empowerment and autonomy inherent in person centred care. When a client is approved for a Home Support Service and HSE staff are not available to deliver the service, then an external provider, who has been approved by the HSE under Tender 2018 Arrangements, will deliver the service on the HSE's behalf. The CDHS approach facilitates clients to deal directly with HSE Approved Provider(s) of their choice and to arrange days and times of service delivery.

Further information on Consumer Directed Home Support can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/national-guidelines-and-procedures-for-the-standardised-implementation-of-the-home-support-service-hss-guidelines.pdf>

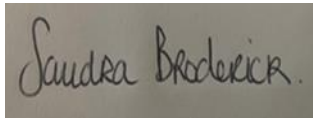
Notwithstanding the above, it is important to note, that when a client is approved for Home Support, commencement of the service is dependent on carer capacity and funding being available for that service. Clients who are approved for a Home Support service, and where carers and/or funding is not readily available at that time, are placed on a waiting list until such time as either a carer or funding becomes available.

In addition, the HSE has commenced scoping out the use of personalised budgets as an alternative to the current model of home support service delivery. However, considerations such as governance, adherence to standards, employee/employer relationship, financial oversight, potential legislative impact etc. will need to be addressed prior to the introduction of any formal policy on the use of personalised home support budgets.

The number of people in receipt of home support including CDHS at any time will vary, having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved, as clients cease and new clients with different value home supports are approved and commenced. The general uptake of CDHS nationally to date has been quite low.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Broderick".

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**Sandra Broderick**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Community Operations**  
**Services for Older People**