



Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an
Oirdheiscirt | Leacain |
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |
R95 NV08

Head of Service Older Persons Tel: 056 7784319

South East Community Healthcare
Area | Lacken |
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |
R95 NV08

16th February 2022

Mr. Johnny Mythen T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 6081/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1827 of 19 January 2022, if the review of the home support services in County Wexford that was completed in November 2021 will be published; if resources have been allocated for the recommendations of this review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

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. Home Support services in the South East Area are provided in line with HSE national guidelines. Services are provided in the first instance directly by the HSE or by private providers that have a service arrangement with the HSE.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' increases. Those people who are on the waiting list have been assessed and are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources, having regard to the client's assessed needs and current Public Health advice. Individuals are removed from the waiting list in chronological order with priority given to those being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports.

It should be noted that more than 584,000 hours were delivered in total within Wexford County in 2021. However, there is evidence of increasing need presented in Wexford and a requirement to implement a sustainable Home Support services into the future. In addition, there is also an increase in complexity of need presented by our older population which often requires two Health Care Support Workers to attend to one person. The double allocation of staff resources has a direct impact on ability to meet demand along with challenges experienced across recruitment.



The HSE internal review of Home Support Services Wexford was completed in November 2021 and made available to the Head of Services Older Persons. The report identified a number of recommendations which, to bring to fruition will be implemented across the Wexford Home Support Service and wider South East Community Healthcare Area.

The implementation of the recommendations requires an integrated care group approach throughout SECH which will be delivered through the 'Home Support Improvement Programme' providing a structured and project managed approach. The recommendations from Home Support Review are timely as Home Support Services will fall within a regularity framework, [in the future] delivered by the Health Information Quality Authority. Furthermore, Home Support Services across Wexford and SECH in accordance with Slaintecare, 'Right Time, Right Place' principles must move to delivering a sustainable service which is 'fit for purpose' and can expand as demand increases.

Older Persons are currently finalising the resource which will be allocated to this project with the inaugural SECH governance meeting to take place on the 17th February 2022. Subsequent to this there will be further stakeholder engagements across Wexford and SECH.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen McDaid', written over a light grey grid background.

Helen McDaid
Head of Service
South East Community Healthcare