



01 March 2022

Deputy John Lahart TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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 8099/22

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to harvest data around the provision of homecare and the need for such care in Ireland.

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

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

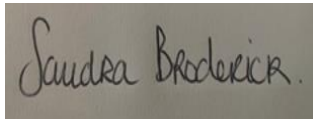
A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE, for the design and development of the new statutory home support scheme and regulation, commenced in 2019, with the Department of Health leading out on the detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people. However, following the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency in early 2020, this work was stalled for a period of time and recommenced in 2021.

Part of this programme of work is to test a model of Home Support, on a pilot basis across a number of select sites, which would further inform the design, regulation and overall planning for a new Statutory Home Support Scheme and to identify the IT infrastructure required to fully support the effective management of the Scheme including comprehensive and confidential data harvesting across all Home Support services.

Currently, home support data is collated on a monthly basis and reported against key performance targets at national, CHO and LHO level and published as part of the HSE monthly data reporting suite.

The implementation of a national standardised Home Support Client Management system is a key ambition for the HSE and such a system would enhance data reporting in terms of forward planning and service modelling of Home Support services into the future, particularly as our older population and associated demographics increase due to better standards of living and other contributing positive factors.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People