



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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8th February 2022

Deputy Ivana Bacik,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Bacik,

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 3487/22

To ask the Minister for Health the level of funding that has been allocated to each CHO area to facilitate persons under the age of 65 who have been inappropriately placed in nursing homes to leave long-term nursing homes and to be supported to live in the community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE is fully committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability (UNCRPD) and the implementation of Sláintecare which is ultimately about delivering the right care in the right place at the right time. The establishment of a statutory home support scheme, underway in the HSE, that enables people to live as independently as possible in their home is a fundamental sought after requirement that has the potential to develop greater choice and options to suit need.

The Nursing Home Support Scheme provides the funding for long term placements in nursing homes. Although it is mainly utilised by people over 65 years, there is a cohort of approximately 1,330 people under 65 years living in nursing homes, 45% of whom are aged 60+ and 20% less than 50 years, and many of these people are satisfied with this arrangement and for many this may be the appropriate setting based on their clinical and support need. However, the HSE acknowledges that this must be the subject of a care and case management approach that facilitates structured reviews and where the will and preference of the individual is of paramount importance.

In this context, work has been ongoing in the HSE to address nursing home care of people under 65 who wish to live elsewhere.

- The HSE has established a dedicated funding stream as part of the HSE National Service Plan (NSP 2021) that will enable 18 people, with an investment of €3m, under the age of 65yrs to transition to their own home with support. This initiative is in line with the Programme for Government and the UNCRPD, as well as Time to Move On Policy and the Ombudsman's Report into the placement of persons under 65 years of age in nursing homes.
- The NSP 2021 also provides for implementation of the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy which will utilise the Sláintecare 2020 care redesign fund in the development of neuro-rehabilitation teams starting with Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (CHO7)



and Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation (CHO8). This includes the development of 10 specialist inpatient beds.

- The HSE has also secured €300,000 from the Service Reform Fund for a two phase project. Phase one is underway to develop a database of the population under 65 years of age in Nursing Homes in line with the recommendation of the Ombudsman report. In phase two, work will focus on mapping the care pathway to enable younger people in Nursing Homes to transition to the community which eventually can be rolled out as appropriate across the country.

National Service Plan Targets

To support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, the HSE is working in collaboration with service providers, the person and their families, where this is the wish of the person. As each individual's situation and circumstances are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken. Supports will be based on each individual's needs.

Each CHO is leading the transition of at least two people based on the allocations in the National Service Plan, 2021. The support needs of each person are assessed and as mentioned above, this subsequently informs the transition plan and support for the person. CHOs are on track to meet the target for 2021 and a summary report will be compiled at that stage to inform further developments in this area. A budget of €3 million was secured for this, which equates to €166,000 per person for direct care support hours. This project is being delivered by the nine Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area is working within this budget. There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

Data at the end of November 2021 shows that 14 people aged under 65 living in nursing homes have been supported to move to homes of their choosing in the community.

The National Service Plan for 2022 has yet to be published, however, it is likely that significant funding will be allocated to this area with a further 63 people planned to move from nursing home settings to homes of their choosing in the community.

Service Reform Fund Project

The HSE has appointed a Project Lead under the Service Reform Fund to undertake a mapping exercise of the current population to establish a database of people under the age of 65 in nursing homes. This will support identification of those inappropriately placed, to enable a determination of the supports required. This project is funded up to mid-2022.

A key outcome of NSP 2021 & 2022 and the SRF project will be to gather and collate information to determine the overall requirements and costs associated with the transitioning of people from nursing homes: revenue, once off and ongoing, pay and non-pay and the minor capital and capital costs. It is expected that there will be a range in funding required to support each person which will be influenced by:

- level and type of support needed,
- the current funding arrangements (potential for de-bundling),
- planned post- transition arrangement (alternative community residential service, personalised budget, return to existing family home etc).

The additional care options and true cost of decongregation for the people in nursing homes is still being explored as in many cases these are the cohort of residents that remain in these settings due to the requirement for significant nursing supports and appropriate accommodation.

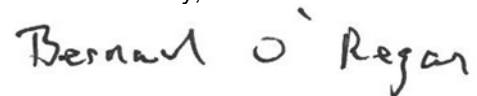
Measures to prevent young persons from entering nursing homes will continue to be provided through the use of support services such as respite, home support and personal assistance services.



Implementation Steering Committee

The HSE is currently in the process of establishing an Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) under the aegis of the Office of the Chief Operations Officer (COO). The work of the ISC will oversee the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Ombudsman's report and provide a level of assurance regarding the health, safety and dignity of residents, aged under 65 years, living in residential care settings and ensure the efficient transition to alternative care settings where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations