



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

25th January 2022

Deputy Colm Burke,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: colm.burke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 63617/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department plans to deliver post acquired brain injury inpatient services locally outside of Dublin as per the recommendations of the National Stroke Strategy and the National Rehabilitation Strategy which plan for the implementation of local specialist neurorehabilitation services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 63618/21

To ask the Minister for Health if a commitment will be given to delivering post acquired brain injury inpatient services; his plans for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Health Service Executive Health provides or funds a range of services across the country, for people with Brain Injury. These services include:

- Acute Hospital Services
- Mental Health Services
- The National Rehabilitation Hospital.
- A range of multi-disciplinary services at local level providing rehabilitation in the community to people with ABI
- A range of long term assisted living supports, usually contracted by the health service from the non-statutory sector.
- Rehabilitative training services, also usually contracted by the health service from the non-statutory sector.

These services are provided directly by the health service and a number of non statutory organisations across Disability Services, General Community Services, Acute Hospital Services and Services for Older People.

Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy

Neuro-rehabilitation services play a critical role in supporting recovery and/or maximising ability of those with neurological conditions. We know from our own mapping exercises, that there is a dearth of neuro-rehabilitation services at both inpatient and community levels.



The plan to address this is described within the implementation framework for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy. It outlines a 10-step approach which will see each CHO introducing local implementation teams to oversee and guide the implementation process. It also describes a managed clinical rehabilitation network demonstrator project which is currently progressing through the development of post-acute and community neuro-rehabilitation services across CHO 6 & 7, with full year funding of €2.29m available for 2021.

The learning from the demonstrator project will inform the implementation of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy across each CHO and implementation of the Strategy will roll-out from 2022. This funding included the establishment of 10 additional in-patient beds in Peamount, which are now fully operational.

Key Messages:

- The introduction of the first Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network in Ireland is hoped to be the exemplar for the national roll-out of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy.
- The project, funded by the SláinteCare Redesign Fund, involves the commissioning of 10 new beds at Peamount Healthcare and introducing Multi-disciplinary teams for CHO 6 & CHO 7, serving patients with complex presentations who do not require inpatient facilities and those who need to transition from hospital to home.
- These new beds introduce some 3,500 additional specialist rehab bed days per annum into the system.
- With average length of stay of approximately 90 days, this means that 40 patients per annum will have their rehabilitation needs met in an appropriate setting outside of acute hospitals.
- The beds are expected to reduce the NRH waiting list by over 30%, and take direct referrals from AMNCH, SJH, SVUH, Beaumont and the Mater for patients with neurological conditions. The multidisciplinary teams will take referrals from hospitals and the NRH and ensure improved inpatient flow and reduced length of stay in the acute setting.

What we want to achieve through this demonstration pilot site MCRN:

- Person centred coordinated approach to patient care.
- Development of appropriately resourced interdisciplinary inpatient, outpatient and home and community based specialist rehabilitation teams supported by education and training.
- Introduction of the three-tier model of complexity-of-need.
- Reduction in waiting times for assessment and access to inpatient & community rehabilitation services.
- Improved patient outcomes and experience.
- Standardised pathway for people who require neuro rehabilitation.
- Enhanced communication between inpatient and community services to support the delivery of the right care, in the right place, at the right time.
- Build up a supporting infrastructure for the demonstration project to deliver neuro rehabilitation to patients as required across the continuum of care.
- Develop a model of care that can be rolled out nationally.

The learning from this will inform the roll out of the strategy nationally.

Implementation of the strategy will lead to improved patient experience and improved patient outcomes for all with neurological conditions.

We can confirm that the National Steering Group met on three dates in 2020, the 26th February, 22nd October and 25th November. In 2021 the Programme Manager position was only filled for a period of six weeks. We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for this post and hope to have it filled in January 2022. A meeting of the National Steering Group has been scheduled for 13th January 2022

There are many organisations funded by the HSE which provide services to people effected by acquired brain injury and their families. These organisations and services are mainly funded through Primary Care, Mental Health, Health and Wellbeing and Social Inclusion.



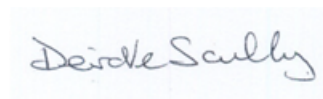
Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII)

ABII is a Section 39 voluntary organisation which was set up in June 2000 in response to the need for services for people with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). ABII aims to enable people with ABI to live an independent life in the community, by providing and maintaining a supportive living environment.

ABII works in partnership with the HSE to provide a range of flexible and tailor made services for people with acquired brain injury, in direct response to local identified needs. Services provided by ABII nationwide include:

- Fourteen Assisted Living Services;
- Home & Community Rehabilitation / Outreach Services;
- Day Resource Services;
- Family Support Services / Home Liaison / Social Work;
- Psychological Services; and
- Acquired Brain Injury Awareness Information, Training and Education Programmes.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Deirdre Scully,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery, Disability and Mental Health Services**