



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
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19th July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 22/35358

To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the work of the pilots rolled out on Home Support Schemes as part of the preparation for a statutory scheme; if the pilots have been extended; if so, the duration of the extension; the cost of rolling out the pilots to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 22/35359

To ask the Minister for Health when the national Home Support office will be established the cost of establishing the office; if this cost is already provided for in baseline funding, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 22/35361

To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the progress of the tender for the home care sector 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, with NSP 2022 providing for the overall delivery of 24.26m hours nationally by year end, which includes 260k hours as part of the Home Support Pilot Programme. 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.

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.

One of the key strategic intents of Sláintecare is to transform community services through a modernisation of the health care system, redirecting care out of the acute hospital system and into primary and community settings. This will see enhanced provision of care and support to older persons and persons of increasing frailty in their homes, where appropriate. In recognition that Home Support is a key service within the Irish healthcare system, a joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE for the design, development and regulation of the new statutory home support scheme is currently underway with the Department of Health leading out on a detailed process to determine what type of scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people.

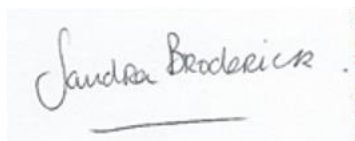
Part of this process is to test a new model of Home Support delivery, and this is presently underway in four pilot sites across the country. As part of this pilot, interRAI assessments will be conducted for clients seeking Home Support in the 4 pilot areas, and the standardised outputs from same will be used to determine prioritisation and levels of care required. Phase 1 of this pilot programme (data collection phase) has been extended to the end of August 2022, and will enter the evaluation stage in Q3 2022. Once completed, the outcome of the pilot will inform the overall design of the new statutory Home Support Scheme.

With regards to the National Home Support Office, plans are progressing to establish a New National Older Persons Services Office that will encompass the National Home Support Office, base to be located in Tullamore, Co Offaly. The HR Social Care team are currently undertaking a recruitment process for a number of key posts to support and enable the establishment of the National Home Support Office.

In relation to the Home Support tender, it is envisaged that the statutory Home Support Scheme will not be implemented until into 2023 therefore there is a requirement to ensure the availability of providers beyond the end date of the current tender arrangements, i.e. 31st December 2022.

The HSE is now at the strategy development stage for the next iteration of the tender process and have engaged a third party Grant Thornton to reach out to a broad spectrum of providers on our behalf to help to inform the procurement strategy for the contracts that will be in place for 2023. Service standards and value for money will be addressed in the tender, as they have been in previous tenders. It is anticipated that the Invitation to Tender will issue towards the end of Q3 for implementation on 01 January 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Broderick". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People