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Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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28th July 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

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: 39130/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1657 of 26 April 2022, the reason there was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included for the transfer of 18 persons with disabilities under the age of 65 years who were inappropriately placed in a nursing home to their own home in the community as was detailed in the HSE National Service Plan 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 39131/22

To ask the Minister for Health the all-in capital cost, including fittings and equipment, that has been allocated to transfer 63 persons with disabilities under the age of 65 years who were inappropriately placed in a nursing home to a more appropriate place in the community as was detailed in the HSE National Service Plan 2022; the definition of a more appropriate place in the community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 39132/22

To ask the Minister for Health the average all-in capital cost, including fittings and equipment, to transfer a person with disabilities under the age of 65 years who was inappropriately placed in a nursing home to their own home in the community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE is working to support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, where this is the wish of the person. As each individual's situation, circumstances and accommodation requirements are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken.

In this regard, the HSE established a dedicated funding stream as part of the National Service Plan to enable people under the age of 65 years 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.



In 2021, a budget of €3 million was secured to enable 18 people under 65 years living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community. Each CHO led the transition of at least two people based on the allocations in the National Service Plan, 2021. The support needs of each person were assessed and this subsequently informed the transition plan and support for the person. A budget of €3 million was secured for this, which equated to €166,000 per person for direct care support hours. This project was delivered by the nine Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area worked within this budget. As per funding allocated to the HSE, there was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

Funding required to support each person under 65 years to move from a Nursing Home into the community, is influenced by: level and type of support needed; the current funding arrangements (potential for de-bundling); and planned post-transition arrangement (alternative community residential service, personalised budget, return to existing family home etc).

However, in 2022, in accordance with the National Service Plan, €5.5m in funding has been provided to support a further 63 people with disabilities (<65yrs) inappropriately placed in nursing homes to transition to more appropriate placements in the community and progress implementation of the recommendations of the Ombudsman Report in line with the HSE Action Plan, which includes working with acute services to prevent inappropriate discharges to nursing homes. This equates to €87,302 per person for direct care support hours.

Delivering appropriate housing for the people transitioning is achieved through a number of different options depending on support and housing needs. This may be:

- Social Housing Options (under the DHPLG/Housing Authorities), either revenue or capital funded
- HSE Capital funded housing projects


Based on the cost of the housing projects delivered to date under the HSE Capital funding stream, it is estimated that a capital cost in the region of €160,000 per person is required to support the transition to community. There is no provision in this figure for the increase in the cost of building materials currently being experienced across the construction sector, which is identified as a 20% price rise.

The average cost per person is the benchmark currently being used as this will accommodate a range of options/solutions some of which are less expensive or can be met through revenue funding options (i.e. rental arrangement with HAP payment) and others that are significantly higher cost i.e. for people requiring more specialised housing.

It should be noted that the costs per person provided are an average. There are significantly large variations depending on the support needs of the individuals and the capacity of the service providers to reconfigure and release resources.

The true cost of moving people with disabilities under the age of 65 years out of nursing homes into assisted community homes, is still being explored as these people have significant supports and appropriate accommodation needs. The cost required per person is expected to increase over time as the number of people with disabilities remaining in Nursing Homes decreases, the complexity of support needs for those people is greater.

Yours sincerely



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

