



31st May 2022

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 23536/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the funding that is being spent on stroke survivors in the community for physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and psychology, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Health Service Executive Health provides or funds a range of services across the country, for people with brain injury including stroke. These services include:

- Acute Hospital Services.
- Mental Health Services.
- The National Rehabilitation Hospital.
- A range of multi-disciplinary services at local level providing rehabilitation services.
- 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. While the main bulk of support provided to stroke survivors is through Older Persons Services.

It is important to note that Disability services are provided based on the needs of an individual rather than by the diagnosis of the individual or the actual type of disability or service required. Therefore, funding allocation for the

provision of services and supports on stroke survivors in the community for physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and psychology, to people with neurological and cerebrovascular diseases, including stroke, is difficult to quantify.

Many of the direct provision HSE and the non HSE service providers provide a variety of supports to people with disabilities as a result of a stroke. These supports permeate throughout the entire health service from residential (including respite) to the variety of day services, Aids and Appliances, Assisted Living Services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services and Home Support Services for Older People (including Home Care Packages)

Therapy services are provided through acute services, Older Persons Rehabilitation Services and in the community generally delivered through Primary Care Teams and specialist adult disability providers.

The following organisations were funded in 2021 through Disability Services under a Service Arrangement to provide services for individuals with disabilities as a result of an acquired brain injury such as stroke. These include but are not limited to:

- Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII) - €14,678,274
- Headway Ireland (HI) - €3,779,857
- The Cheshire Foundation Ireland - €34,821,410
- Irish Wheelchair Association - €42,458,513
- Enable Ireland - €44,971,025

The Volunteer Stroke Scheme, run by the Irish Heart Foundation supports numerous Stroke Support Groups throughout the country.

Neuro Rehabilitation Implementation Framework

The Implementation Framework for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy was launched on the 20th February 2019, and provides guidance for the development of specialist neuro-rehabilitation services across the continuum of care – from acute, to post-acute and community services.

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 in 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 from 2021. This funding included the establishment of 10 additional in-patient beds on the Peamount Healthcare campus with a complement of 26 staff which is now fully operational. Disability Services Community Healthcare Area 6 are currently working on the recruitment of five therapy posts, capital funding for the service has already been received and the location for the Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) has been identified. Disability Services Community Healthcare Area 7 are working with Primary Care to identify the location & governance for the Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team in this area and will progress to the recruitment of 5 therapy posts.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne O'Neill
National Director
Community Operations