



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
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1st November 2022

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: marylou.mcdonald@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy McDonald,

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: 51286/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people inappropriately living in nursing homes who were supported to move to appropriate living options, each month to date in 2022, in tabular form; the details of these options; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE established a dedicated funding stream as part of the National Service Plan to enable people under the age of 65 years living in Nursing Homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, 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 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 are based on each individual's needs.

In 2021, a budget of €3 million was secured to enable 18 people under 65 living in nursing homes to move to more appropriate homes in the community, with each CHO leading the transition of at least two people based on the allocations.

The National Service Plan for 2022 has allocated €5.5m in funding to support a further 63 people to move from nursing home settings to homes of their choosing in the community. This project is being delivered by the nine Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area is working within this budget.

The CHO Areas are currently reviewing individuals who are under 65 years currently residing in nursing homes to move to more appropriate living arrangements in line with their will and preference. Once the assessments have been completed, individual's needs will be identified; this might include sourcing suitable housing, adaptations to the home, recruitment of staff etc.

The CHO Areas have indicated that up to end September 2022, 20 people have transitioned from Nursing Homes to homes of their choosing in the community. These transitions have been a mixture of; own home



(adapted), family home (adapted), new council house (adapted) and specialised residential services. It is envisioned that much of the remaining placements will not be developed until later in 2022 and into early Q1 2023.

In addition to supporting individuals who wish to transition to the community, the CHO teams are also working with individuals who through either will and preference and/or assessment of need will be continuing their placement in the Nursing Home. For these individuals, the CHO teams are identifying and putting in place enhanced quality of life supports to improve the daily life of these younger people while they are still in a nursing home.

To support the CHOs and enable advance planning for under 65s, a National Survey of persons under 65 in nursing homes related to recommendation 6.1 of the Ombudsman report "Wasted Lives" is being developed as part of the "Planning appropriately for Younger People in Nursing Homes"

This project, which is being funded via the Service Reform Fund, was developed in recognition of the need to identify the location, services provided and the cost of placements for younger people with disabilities who are currently living in nursing home settings who may be suitable to transition to alternative sustainable living solutions within their community.

The project will gather essential baseline (Mapping) data on this population in order to improve planning and the implementation of a co-ordinated programme, to support transitions back to the community to lead supported self-directed lives. The project is divided into two parts:

- I. Gather Base line Information: For all current placements of younger people with disabilities in older person services.
- II. Assess Support Needs: For a targeted group of the people identified in Part 1

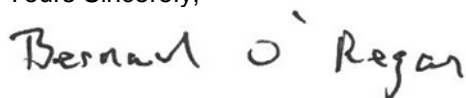
The team are currently finalising the data collection process with the IT and GDPR teams prior to issuing the survey to nursing home providers. It is envisaged that this information will also help to develop a Model of Service and stream line service navigation.

The latest validated data provided by the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Office as of September 2022, indicates that there are a total of 1,265 residents in Nursing Homes who are under the age of 65. Currently 15% of the population is under the age of 50 with a 56%/44% male/female ratio.

Please note this data does not identify how many of these have a disability nor does the data include any residents who may self-fund or are funded from another source include privately funded individuals.

The aforementioned National Survey will provide a complete picture of people with disabilities under 65 years of age residing in Nursing Homes.

Yours Sincerely,



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

