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19th September, 2022

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 43402/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost if 500,000 extra dementia home support hours were provided in 2023.

The National Dementia Strategy was published in December 2014. It is estimated that there are currently 64,142 people with dementia in Ireland today. Furthermore, these numbers are expected to increase significantly in the years ahead.

The aim of the Strategy is to improve dementia care so that people with dementia can live well for as long as possible, can have services and supports delivered in the best way possible, and can ultimately die with dignity. The Strategy emphasises that most people with dementia live in their own communities and can continue to live well and to participate in those communities. The Strategy contains a set of priority actions capable of implementation within existing resources or by reconfiguring resources. It also contains a number of additional actions which may require resources additional to what is currently available and which will be considered as these become available in the future.

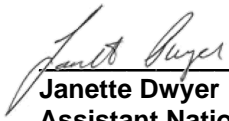
The Department of Health and the Health Service Executive recognise that community and voluntary agencies provide a wide range of services to support older people to continue living in their communities and maintain their social connections. These services, which contribute to positive ageing and better overall health, include befriending, day care, social centres and meals on wheels etc. Improving and developing community supports is in line with the vision outlined in Sláintecare which supports a shift to providing the majority of care in the community and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. 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, including those living with Dementia.

NSP 2022 provided for the overall delivery of 24.26m hours nationally by year end. Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of July 2022. As of this date, 12,432,029 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,284 people, which includes Home Support hours delivered to those living with Dementia. Specific data relating to the delivery of Dementia Specific Home Support hours is not currently collated nationally as part of its national reporting mechanisms.

In relation to your query on the projected cost of providing an additional 500,000 Home Support hours to Dementia clients, and basing same on the current average cost per hour nationally, the approximate additional full year cost of same in 2023 would be in the region of €13.3m.

Regards,



Janette Dwyer
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation