



**Leas Stiúrtóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh - Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte**

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7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Paul Murphy,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Murphy,

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: 8953/23**

*To ask the Minister for Health the steps he intends taking to ensure that every community healthcare organisation has a community neuro-rehabilitation team as previously promised, including CHO7 in particular, where none is available at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

### **HSE Response**

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing neuro-rehabilitation services in the community. The Health Service Executive is leading on the implementation framework in respect of the recommendations of the National Policy and Strategy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015.

The Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) was launched in February 2019.

The overarching aim of the Strategy is the development of neuro-rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred neuro-rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway, and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary. These services are to be configured into population based managed clinical rehabilitation networks (MCRNs). The overarching aim is the development of population based MCRN's around the country.

In order to test the feasibility of this new MCRN model in the Irish context, a decision was made by the Neuro-Rehabilitation Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO6 and CHO7 to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out.

In CHO 7, the Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team has been funded for 5 WTE, with the breakdown as follows:

- 1 x Senior Physiotherapist
- 1 x Senior Occupational Therapist
- 1 x Senior Speech and Language Therapist
- 1 x Senior Clinical Psychologist
- 1 x Administrative Support



In CHO 7, Disability Services are working with Primary Care and Peamount Healthcare to identify a suitable governance model for this team. On agreement of the governance model, recruitment will be progressed.

A location for the Community Neuro-rehab Team (CNRT) has been agreed in CHO 7. The team will be based in Peamount Healthcare

Regarding the other CHO's, in CHO 3 and CHO 1 there are Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team's that pre-date the strategy. There is currently no Community Neuro-Rehab Team operational within CHO 2, 4,5,8,9 however, moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to create a population-based Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team within each CHO or RHA following the implementation of the new Regional Health Areas within Slaintecare. An additional two teams will be introduced to the demonstrator project in CHO 2 and CHO 4 in 2023.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian J. Higgins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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**Brian J. Higgins**

Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery -Disability and Mental Health Services