



Leas Stiúthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh - Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte

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30th January 2023

Deputy Willie O'Dea TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: willie.odea@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

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: 2992/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will fully resource existing community neuro-rehabilitation teams, such as the one in Limerick; if he will set up a community neuro-rehabilitation team in every community health organisation; 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-Rehab Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO6 and CHO7 to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out. As part of the MCRN demonstrator project, funding was provided for the establishment of a Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team ((CNRT) in CHO 6 and also CHO 7. Each team has been funded for 5 WTE, with the breakdown as follow, per team:

- 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 both CHO 6 and CHO 7, an agreement has been reached on location. Governance arrangements are in the final stages of negotiation and the HSE recruitment process should begin by year end.

Within CHO 3, a CNRT was set up in 2007 consisting of 6 WTE and within CHO 1 a CNRT is operational within the Donegal catchment only.

There is currently no CNRT 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 two new CHO's in 2023.

Yours Sincerely

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

Brian J. Higgins
Assistant National Director:
Change Planning and Delivery -
Disability and Mental Health Services