



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

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23rd January 2023

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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: 63492/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons aged under 65 years who are inappropriately living in nursing homes that have been successfully moved out of nursing homes and onto a rehabilitation pathway towards independent living during 2022; 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 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. These transitions will be a mixture of; own home (adapted), family home (adapted), new council house (adapted) and specialised residential services. It is envisaged that much of the remaining placements will not be developed until later in 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:

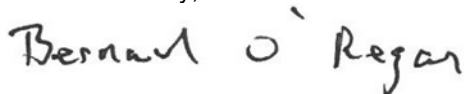
- I. Gather Base line Information: For all current placements of younger people with disabilities in older person services.
- II. Assess Support Needs: For a targeted group of the people identified in Part 1

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.

Based on 2022 returns from the Community Healthcare Areas, 20 people under 65 years of age were safely transitioned out of Nursing Homes. The complexity of cases, limited availability of housing and a shortage of home support staff were significant factors affecting CHOs ability to safely transition individuals. However, again based on CHO returns, there are currently 25 individuals who are in active transition planning and a further cohort of individuals who are currently in the review stage, who would be ready to progress based on their will and preference and assessment of need.

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**

