



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

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17th July 2023

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: eamon.ocuiv@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

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: 32071/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the extra funding provided to disability organisations for new services this year; the number of new services provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

In Ireland, a wide range of disability services are provided to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism. Disability services focus on supporting and enabling people with disabilities to maximise their full potential, as independently as possible. Current policies are based on the principles of person-centredness to ensure insofar as possible that the supports for a person are based on individual assessed need, will and preference and to support people to remain as close to home and connected to their community as possible.

Over 60% of the resources available are allocated to provide a range of residential services to approximately 8,300 people with a disability for both children and adults. A further 20% is targeted at the provision of over 18,000 day places for persons over 18 years of age and supports to nearly 25,000 people. The remaining 20% provides respite care services to just over 5,700 adults and children; almost 5 million personal assistant and home support hours, as well as multi-disciplinary teams and other community services and supports.

Funding

In 2022, Disability Services was allocated c. €2.3 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country and is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, Children's Disability Services and Therapeutic Supports.



The summary of funding across disability services in 2022 is shown in the Table below.

Service Provided	Final Nsp 2022
Residential Places	€1,368,021
Day Services	€580,489
Respite	€96,465
PA & Home support (Hours of Service)	€109,809
Multidisciplinary Support (WTE's)	€133,251
Other Community Services & Supports	€59,346
Total	€2,347,380

In 2023, Disability Services is allocated c. €2.6 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country and is being spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services and Rehabilitative Training, PA and Home Support Services, Therapeutic Supports, and Neuro-rehabilitation Services.

The HSE funds and works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources.

The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. The relationship between these providers and the HSE is governed by way of a Service Arrangement (SA) or Grant Aid Agreement (GA) via the nine Community Healthcare Organisations. The HSE currently manages 1,045 SAs or GAs with a total of 419 organisations.

The HSE acknowledges the role and contribution of non-statutory agencies in the development and provision of health and personal social services and is committed to the development of effective working relationships as enacted by the Health Act 2004.

A formal and robust Governance Framework covers these Service Arrangements and Grant Aid Agreements. A set of Schedules within the Service Arrangement sets out the detail of the service and the exact funding that the HSE is providing for the delivery of this service.

The completion of Service arrangement involves collaboration and dialogue between the HSE and the Service Provider and involves agreement on anticipated outcomes that the service will deliver and level of funding provided to the organisation.

At the end of 2022, there were 15 Section 38 Organisations in receipt of over €1 billion funded by HSE Disability Services. There were in excess of 200 Section 39 Organisations with either a Grant Aid Agreement or a Service Arrangement with HSE Disability Services with funding provided amounting almost €700 million.

The National Service Plan 2023

The 2023 HSE Service Plan has been published and sets out, at a high level, the anticipated service activity levels that are to be delivered during the year.

During 2023, funding is being allocated to the organisations for the provision of services within the framework described above commensurate with the level of funding allocated to Disability Services.



In accordance with the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE has committed to:

- The provision of improved access to children's disability services and improved compliance with the statutory Assessment of Need process.
- Continuing to work with community support teams to provide safeguarding support to vulnerable adults.
- Improving the delivery of a range of specialist community-based disability services and increasing service capacity in the areas of day (including the provision of places for the 2023 school leavers and rehabilitation-training graduates), respite, multi-disciplinary, residential and personal assistant services using the resources available.
- Progressing the delivery of the Assessment of Need process in line with legislative obligations.
- The Stability and Sustainability Team will continue to focus on financial and governance challenges to develop proposals for a more sustainable model of services, extracting high level learning from its current programme of work to inform future service considerations, including policy where appropriate.
- Continuing the transition of people from institutional settings to community-based services in line with *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings* policy and the recommendations of *Wasted Lives: Time for a better future for younger people in nursing homes*.
- Supporting and helping to facilitate the transfer of functions of specialist community-based disability services from the DoH to the DCEDIY.

In accordance with the NSP 2023, the HSE will:

Childrens' Services sort

- Progress the recruitment of 136 senior clinicians to facilitate children's disability network teams (CDNTs) to restore on-site health and social care supports to 104 special schools, as required by Government. This initiative will be in addition to recruiting the balance of the 2021 allocation of therapists to special schools as well as the continued recruitment of the 2022 allocated posts.
- Implement the range of actions in the draft Roadmap for Progressing Children's Disability Services, through the CDNTs, with a specific focus to:
 - Progress a range of initiatives to recruit and retain staff on CDNTs to maximise the supports available to children and families requiring these services
 - Recruit two consultant paediatricians, in conjunction with the Paediatric programme, to provide essential paediatric medical supports and interventions
 - Improve communication with all stakeholders, especially families
 - Implement an initiative for all children currently awaiting CDNT first or follow up service
 - Improve governance of the service
 - Develop integrated service pathways to ensure children and families can access the right service at the right time
- Progress a capacity-building initiative in two CHOs to demonstrate an all-team approach to supporting children with complex behaviours
- Review and implement the (i) National Access Policy and (ii) the HSE's primary care, disabilities and CAMHS Joint Protocol with Tusla, in conjunction with primary care and mental health services
- Establish 91 family forums and nine family representative groups in order to co-design CDNT service improvements and developments with families
- Deliver a public-facing communications / media plan to highlight the work of the CDNTs.

Autism Services

- Continue to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Autism Report, led by the Service Improvement Programme for the Autistic Community Board, prioritising the ongoing work of the pilot to introduce a tiered model of assessment and improved access to information and resources
- Engage with DCEDIY to support the development of its Autism Innovation Strategy.



NeuroRehabilitation Implementation Framework

Develop two additional community neuro-rehabilitation teams in two CHOs in line with the NeuroRehabilitation Implementation Framework.

Clinical Pathways

- Resource a continence clinic in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare area for children and adults with primary diagnosis of a neuro-physical disability through an agreed Centre
- Establish a national specialist service for children with visual impairments, in addition to upskilling CDNT members across the country to assist in local therapy interventions via training and ongoing consultative support.

Day Services

- Implement changes in line with New Directions policy through the provision of 1,250 new day services placements for school leavers and graduates of rehabilitative training.
- Undertake a review of rehabilitative training in follow up to the 2020 rehabilitative training report to maximise the use of places and to reflect the change in the outcomes for participants.

Residential Services

- Provide 43 additional residential places in response to current need
- Support 18 delayed transfers of care in line with the Winter Plan
- Provide 23 residential care packages to young people ageing out of Tusla services in line with the Joint Protocol
- Consider a sustainable funding model for residential services, incorporating the early learning from the pilot project commenced in Community Healthcare West in 2022, the work of the National Placement Improvement Programme and the Disability Supports Management Application Tool.

Respite Services

- Establish five additional respite services and increase one service from part time to full time opening to:
 - Provide 7,872 additional nights to 278 people in a full year
 - Provide 27 additional in-home respite packages to children and young adults in a full year
 - Provide 265 day-only respite packages to 180 people in a full year.
- In accordance with NSP 2023, Disability Services is committed to developing 43 new emergency residential placements and 447 in home respite supports for emergency cases; this includes 420 packages put in place in 2022 which have been maintained in 2023, plus 27 additional in-home respite packages to children and young adults outlined in NSP 2023.

Personalised Supports

- Deliver an additional 70,370 personal assistant hours to expand and enhance the supports for people to live self-directed lives in the community
- Deliver the national personalised budgets demonstrator project to 180 participants
- Support the development of projects that will enhance the provision of assistive technology to service users and contribute to collaborative working between service providers
- Support the integration and inclusion of people with disabilities through a Social Farming initiative.

Assessment of Need

Progress the delivery of the Assessment of Need process in line with legislative obligations



- Arising from a 2022 High Court judgement the HSE must provide additional assessments for a cohort of children who were identified as requiring these assessments through the Disability Act 2005 assessment of need process. The HSE will use all available mechanisms to provide these assessments including the procurement of assessments internationally
- Establish the process for Assessment of Need for people born after 2002.

Congregated Settings

- Continue the transition of people from institutional settings to community-based services in line with Time to Move on from Congregated Settings policy and the recommendations of Wasted Lives: Time for a better future for younger people in nursing homes
- Continue capacity-building work in services to support the change from an institutional model of service to a person-centred model of support in the community
- Work will continue to support individuals currently residing in congregated settings, to move into more appropriate community and residential settings.

People under 65 years of age in Nursing Homes

- Continue to support individuals under the age of 65, who are currently residing in nursing homes, to move into more appropriate community settings or to enhance the quality of life for those who will be continuing their nursing home placement.
- Continue the implementation of the recommendations from the Ombudsman's report, Wasted Lives: Time for a better future for younger people in nursing homes, to enable transitions in to the community and reduce the risk of younger adults being inappropriately placed in a nursing home, with a specific focus on the National Nursing Home survey and mapping project, model of service development, service access and navigation, funding, and informed consent, policy and human rights.

Yours Sincerely,



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

