



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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20th July 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

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: 35364/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of disabled people under the age of 65 years that have been transferred from a nursing home in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to-date in 2023; the funding that was allocated in the same period to transfer disabled people under the age of 65 years out of a nursing home; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

In 2019, the Ombudsman commenced a systemic investigation into people under 65, living in nursing homes (NHs) and in May 2021 “*Wasted Lives: Time for a better future for younger people in nursing homes*” was published.

The Ombudsman’s research suggests that nursing homes in general are designed for frail older people in the latter stage of their life. They are therefore not equipped to provide the rehabilitation that a younger person living with a disability may require, nor do they provide a social model of care focused on enabling the people concerned to return to their communities. Such a model of care is essential to implement the Transforming Lives Programme and to meet the commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The Ombudsman’s report detailed a series of findings and nineteen recommendations covering a range of themes including funding, informed consent, quality of life, access to services, navigating the system and policy and human rights.

In response to the Ombudsman’s report, the HSE is co-ordinating a programme of work at both Community Healthcare Area (CHOs) operational level and at National level to review and implement the report’s recommendations for which the HSE has accountability. This includes supporting individuals under the age of 65, who are currently residing in nursing homes, to move into more appropriate community settings or enhancing the quality of life for those who will be continuing their nursing home placement.



With regard to the commitment to reduce and provide a pathway to eliminate the practice of inappropriately accommodating young people with serious disabilities in nursing homes and to facilitate where appropriate, people under 65s who wish to live elsewhere, the National Service Plan has allocated €5.5m for 2022/2023 and provided €8m to support existing levels of service.

This is a total of €13.5m for 2023 to support this work.

Transfers to the community from Nursing Homes

The Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) have indicated for 2021 that 14 transitions of people under 65 years of age with disabilities from Nursing Homes took place.

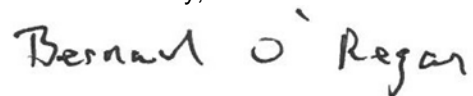
Based on the U65 operational tracker data, from January 2022 to May 2023, 39 people have transitioned from Nursing Homes to homes of their choosing in the community.

The CHO teams are working on delivering further placements in 2023 with several new units in active planning. Currently there are 53 individuals at more advanced stages of transition planning e.g. awaiting units to be ready, service packages and staffing to be finalised etc.

In addition, Disability teams are working with individuals, who through will and preference and/or based on assessed need, are continuing their nursing home placement. Disability teams are providing, where appropriate, enhanced quality of life supports to improve people's daily living experience within a nursing home. Currently 37 individuals have been provided with these supports and a further 14 are participating in a pilot preparedness programme to support them to be ready to move back into the community.

The collection of this data is ongoing.

Yours Sincerely,



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

