



**Leas Stiúirthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh  
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte.**

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

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Deputy Denis Naughten,  
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Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Naughten,

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: 27325/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will expand community neurological-rehabilitation teams to each CHO area; the timeline for delivery; 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 CHO 6 and CHO 7 to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out.



Slaintecare provided funding in 2020 for two small Community Neuro Rehab Teams (CNRTs) (5 WTE) in CHO 6 and 7. There were concerns around the small team size and agreeing a model of governance. Funding has now been secured to enhance these teams to 13 WTE. Recruitment for these teams will commence in Q3 and teams are planned to be operational in Q4 2023.

Funding was provided in budget 2023 for two CNRTs in CHO 2 and CHO 4 with 13 WTE respectively. Within these CHOs, initial meetings have taken place to establish a Local Implementation Group (LIG) who will drive the creation of the CNRT within the CHO, identify a location for these teams, as well as operationalise the model of governance approved by the NSG. The recruitment process for the CNRT team leads has begun with recruitment of the remaining posts commencing in Q3. These teams are planned to be operational in Q4 2023.

There are two CNRTs in existence that predate the strategy, in CHO 1 and CHO 3. There is currently no Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team operational within CHO 5, 8 and 9. Moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to enhance the existing CNRTs in CHO 1 and 3 and 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.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,  
Assistant National Director,  
Change Planning and Delivery,  
Disability and Mental Health Services**