



**Leas Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh - Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte**

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21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Deputy Roisin Shortall,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Shortall,

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: 13589/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the timeline he is working towards to establish a community neuro-rehabilitation team in each CHO; if he intends to provide dedicated funding for the seven CHOs without a team in 2023; 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 this demonstrator project there is funding for two Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams, one in CHO 6 and one in CHO 7. The aim is that these teams will be recruited and operational in 2023. The plan moving forward is to roll out these networks of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services nationally. In line with this, an additional two teams will be introduced in CHO 2 and CHO 4 in 2023.

Regarding the other CHO's, in CHO 3 and CHO 1 there are Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team's that pre-date the strategy. There is currently no Community Neuro-Rehab Team 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 Sláintecare.

Yours Sincerely

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

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**Brian J. Higgins**

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