



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

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15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Catherine Murphy,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Murphy,

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: 20511/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated full-year cost of providing 180 and 450 additional intensive support packages for children with disabilities who have high or complex support needs, respectively.*

**HSE Response**

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. Services provided include Residential Services, Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports.

Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives

Each individual intensive support package for a children with complex / high support needs is bespoke and tailored to meet the individual needs and requirements of that child. The package may include additional planned residential respite, access to planned extended day / weekend and summer day based activities, or intensive respite and home supports.



The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services on an annual basis via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

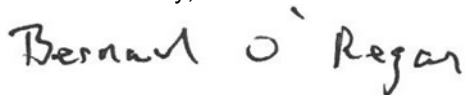
With regard to the estimated full-year cost of providing 180 and 450 additional intensive support packages for children with disabilities who have high or complex support needs, based on 8 hrs per day 7-days per week – 56 hrs per week and inclusive of premia this would be approximately €16,274,160 and €40,685,400 respectively.

### **2023 Developments**

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 commensurate with the level of funding allocated to Disability Services.

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.

Yours sincerely,



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

