



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
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4th December 2023

Deputy James Lawless,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: james.lawless@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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: 50735/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth his plans for the long-term care of young people with acquired brain injury or for any young person in need of long-term care, which would be suitable to their needs as alternative nursing homes.

HSE Response

The HSE funds a range of community services and supports to enable each individual with a disability, to achieve his or her full potential and maximise independence, including living as independently as possible. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services and Rehabilitative Training, PA and Home Support Services, Therapeutic Supports, and Neuro-rehabilitation Services.

Disability services focus on enabling people with disabilities to achieve their full potential, living ordinary lives in ordinary places, as independently as possible, while ensuring that the voices of service users and their families are heard, and that they are fully involved in planning and improving services to meet their needs.

Importantly, the needs of people with a disability extend well beyond health service provision, and the health service will participate fully with other governmental departments and services in the development of cross-sectoral strategies to maximise access to services and supports for people with disabilities.

Alternatives to Nursing Homes for young person with a disability such as an Acquired Brain Injury.

The HSE established a dedicated funding stream as part of the National Service Plan to enable people under the age of 65 years living in Nursing Homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, with support. This initiative is in line with the Programme for Government and the UNCRPD, as well as



Time to Move On Policy and the Ombudsman's Report into the placement of persons under 65 years of age in nursing homes.

As per the 2023 National Service Plan, 5.5 million has been allocated to support the work of U65 transitions and enhancing quality of life for 2022 and 2023. Specifically, where there is an opportunity, this funding has been and is being used to develop suitable alternative residential placements for younger adults with acquired brain injury or as appropriate to their needs.

At Community Healthcare Organisation level, Disability teams work with persons under 65 years of age, currently residing in nursing homes to discuss moving to living arrangements in line with their will and preference or alternative supports and/or additional supports within their current environment.

Any decision to move to a new model of service delivery by an individual requires assessments of their individual needs which may include the individual sourcing suitable housing, adaptations to their original home, recruitment of staff among other dependencies including delivery of safe care and new resources.

It is important to note that it is some people's will and preference to be admitted to and to continue to reside in a Nursing Home.

In addition, there are also a number of people who have complex medical and social care needs that require intensive nursing and medical care that cannot be provided in a home setting or by family members. This might include people who have conditions such as Acquired Brain Injury or early onset dementia.

For individuals who will continue to stay in a nursing home either because it's their will and preference or due to their assessed needs, disability teams are working to provide and fund more quality of life supports to enhance their daily lives, where applicable.

Bearing in mind the uniqueness and complexities of each person's situation, choice, social and medical/care needs and requirements, all options are explored and are considered before a disabled person under the age of 65 years is admitted to a nursing home.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Can their complex care requirements be met in the home/community environment?
- What input or supports can be provided by family members that would meet these requirements?
- What adaptations are required in the home?
- Are there other suitable housing options there if required?
- What level of PA, Home Support, Intensive Home Care Packages can be provided?
- Are there carers available to provide the supports?
- What other post discharge supports does the person require?

The HSE has established an Integrated Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Operations Officer with membership drawn from Acute hospitals, Older Persons, Disability and Primary Care, along with clinical leads and representatives for people with lived experience.

The committee is overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the Ombudsman's report 'Wasted Lives'. Five work streams have been established, focusing on;

1. Developing a Model of Service for the transition of individuals into the community and also to prevent their placement in Nursing Homes in the first place
2. Improving access to services and user navigation
3. Funding and personal finance



4. Informed consent, policy and human rights.
5. Under 65 Service Provider and Individual surveys

The U65 Model of Service will directly address the issue of alternatives to nursing homes, including specialised residential options and other disability service options including home support.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII)

The HSE funds a variety of organisations who provide supports to people with disabilities. This includes Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII) which is a Section 39 voluntary organisation set up in June 2000 in response to the need for services for people with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).

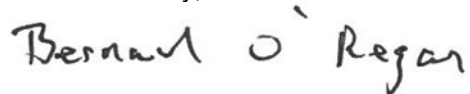
ABII aims to enable people with ABI to live an independent life in the community, by providing and maintaining a supportive living environment.

ABII works in partnership with the HSE to provide a range of flexible and tailor made services for people with acquired brain injury, in direct response to local identified needs. Services provided by ABII nationwide include:

- Fourteen Assisted Living Services;
- Home & Community Rehabilitation / Outreach Services;
- Day Resource Services;
- Family Support Services / Home Liaison / Social Work;
- Psychological Services; and
- Acquired Brain Injury Awareness Information, Training and Education Programmes.

In addition, ABII is also known as the Peter Bradley Foundation which is the registered Provider for 15 disability residential centres around the country.

Yours Sincerely,



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

