



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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25th October 2023

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: danny.healyrae@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Healy- Rae,

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: 44281/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: I am asking again on behalf of the National Learning Network that people with disabilities are supported and that funding is provided to address the critical issues for service users and the many challenges facing the disability sector.

HSE Response

Rehab Group

Rehab provides services to around 8,000 people with disabilities and those who are socially marginalised throughout the 26 counties of Ireland. Rehab was established in 1949 to help people recovering from tuberculosis to rebuild their lives, regain their independence and to re-enter the workforce following their illness. Rehab provides short-term and long-term services to young people and adults with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities; mental health difficulties; autism; or acquired brain injury Services are co-ordinated through Rehab's three service delivery divisions: RehabCare, the National Learning Network and Rehab Enterprises (*The Rehab Enterprises do not receive funding from the HSE*).

Rehab Group (Learning – NLN)

Rehab Group (Learning – NLN).provides a range of flexible training courses and support services for some 5,000 students from age 16 upwards who need specialist support (job seekers, unemployed, people with an illness or disability) in 50 centres around the country. Rehab Group (Learning – NLN). provides a wide range of vocational training and education programmes, funded by SOLAS, as well as rehabilitative training, funded by the HSE.



Rehabilitative Training (RT) programmes are designed to equip participants with basic personal, social and work-related skills that will enable them to progress to greater levels of independence and integration in the community. These are approved programmes with 'Whole Time Equivalent' (WTE) places allocated by the HSE. Rehab Group (Learning – NLN).has around 800 approved RT places country wide.

The SOLAS courses and HSE programmes, all of which include work experience, offer nationally recognised qualifications including FETAC, ECDL, and City and Guilds ensuring that students are ready to get a job or go on to further education.

Funding

The Rehab Group, which includes Learning NLN, is funded by the HSE under Section 39 of the Health Act and operates in all 9 HSE CHO areas. Services are provided through a Service Arrangement which is signed on an annual basis and reviewed continually.

Funding that has been provided to RehabGroup – NLN is as follows:

2020: €16,377,099

2021: €17,308,814

2022: €19,044,165

2023: €23,891,921 so far.

(Please note:-The funding information given above is from the SPG system is as at the date indicated, and represents the funding arrangement allocations entered by the operational system. SPG is not a finance or payment system and figures will fluctuate on a continuum as updates on governance arrangement are uploaded).

Estimates Process

Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.


The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi Disciplinary Posts and Neuro Rehab monies as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services 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.

The HSE recognises the value of the RehabGroup including Learning NLN and the support and services it provides. While the HSE has made submissions for increased funding as part of the current budgetary process, any further increases in funding can only be considered within the parameters and scope of funding made available to the HSE.

The HSE has not as yet received the Letter of Determination or the written/agreed National Service Plan for next year. In that context, the HSE cannot indicate what funding provision will be made to Service Providers and to the Community Healthcare Areas for service provision at this stage.

Yours Sincerely,



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

