



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

2nd November 2023

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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: 45414/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated full year cost of providing twenty additional emergency residential places for persons with a disability.

HSE Response

HSE Disability Services is allocated funding on an annual basis to provide a range of services throughout the country. Funding is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports.

Residential Services

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE, representing over 60% of the total budget. The HSE developed a Residential Capacity Database to capture the number of residential placements / contract capacity per the service arrangement between the nine CHO areas and the service provider agencies. The end of September 2023 position indicates that there were 8,355 residential places for people with a disability – 155 places are occupied by children, which constitutes about 2% of the total.

Emergency Residential Placements

In previous years, funding has been allocated in the National Service Plan to provide for additional new emergency residential placements, as follows:

- The HSE responded to 474 “emergency places/cases” between 2014 and 2016.
- NSP 2017 made provision for 185 new emergency residential placements
- Between 2018 and 2020, the HSE developed a total of 252 new emergency places across the 9 CHOs.
- In accordance with the NSP 2021, 91 new emergency residential places were developed; a further 25 planned residential places also opened in 2021; 4 adult transfers to Tusla also took place. A further 19 people aged under 65 living in nursing homes were supported to move to homes of their choosing in the community, during the year.



- In accordance with the NSP 2022, the HSE developed 103 new emergency residential places together with 11 Planned Residential places and 18 new intensive support packages and 19 new supported living packages. The CHO Areas indicated that 22 people transitioned from Nursing Homes to homes of their choosing in the community and 32 packages to support adults ageing out of Tusla services were put in place.
- In accordance with the NSP 2023, the HSE has been allocated funding to provide 43 additional residential places in response to current need (At end of September 2023, 103 new emergency residential places were developed). In addition, in line with the Winter Plan, 27 people received new residential places with 3 further receiving home care packages. A further 25 residential care packages were developed for young people ageing out of Tusla services in line with the Joint Protocol.

Estimates Process

Prior to the publication of the Annual Service Plan and the allocation of funding commensurate with that plan, based on government direction and the economic environment, the HSE establishes a process and accountability route to identify financial and human resource requirements for the following year for the totality of the organisation. This typically includes: Existing Levels of Service, Service Priorities, Government Policy, Strategic Direction of HSE and service efficiencies / initiatives.

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 all services including Residential Services and Emergency places 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 all services, including residential 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.

Future Planning

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008.

The Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review has projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession.

The cost of procuring Emergency Placements, has increased significantly over the last few years. The average cost of a new residential placement has increased from €284k in 2019 to €332k per place in 2022 and 63% of placements in 2022 were through for-profit providers.

The current estimated cost, including staff and operating cost of providing twenty additional emergency residential places for persons with a disability is approximately €6,260,000 per annum.

Action Plan for Disability Services 2023-2026

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026, sets out a three year programme designed to tackle the deficits highlighted in the *Disability Capacity Review to 2032*, which identified the demand for specialist community-based disability services arising from demographic change, and considerable levels of unmet need.

Specifically, the Disability Capacity Review projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession. Moreover, the central projection of the Capacity Review suggests that adults with intellectual disabilities requiring specialist services will increase by a sixth between 2018 and 2032, with fastest growth for young adults (up a third by 2032) and over 55s (up a quarter). These projections include an average of approximately 90 new



residential places that will be needed each year from 2020 to 2032 to accommodate changes in the size and age structure of the disability population.


The Action Plan is designed to provide additional funding for developments that will help build capacity within services, so that the benefits of these funding increases will be felt directly by the service user. This will also help the HSE in dealing with some of the key cost-drivers in service delivery, such as high-cost emergency residential placements, giving greater flexibility and control when planning services.

The headline service improvements which are planned over the 2024-26 period are:

Residential

- Around 900 additional residential care places to tackle unmet needs and ensure supply keeps pace with demographic change;
- 500 new community-based residential care places to replace disability care in large institutional and campus-based settings, with a view to ending that form of provision by 2030;
- Continued expansion of respite services, including alternative residential options

Yours Sincerely,



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

