



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

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

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18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Deputy Duncan Smith,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Smith,

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: 41494/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to account for the reason that no community neurorehabilitation team is in place in CH09; to set out his plans to establish one; 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-Rehabilitation Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO 6 and CHO 7, to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out. Sláintecare provided funding in 2020 for two small CNRTs (5 WTE) in CHO 6 & 7. There were concerns around the small team size and



agreeing a model of governance. Funding has been committed to enhance these teams to 13 WTE. These teams are planned to be operational in Q4 2023.

Funding was provided in budget 2023 for two CNRTs in CHO 2 and CHO 4 with 13 WTE respectively. Within these CHOs, initial meetings have taken place to establish a Local Implementation Group (LIG) who will drive the creation of the CNRT within the CHO, identify a location for these teams, as well as operationalise the model of governance approved by the NSG. The recruitment process for the CNRT team leads has begun with recruitment of the remaining posts commencing in Q4. These teams are planned to be operational by year end 2023.

There are two CNRTs in existence that predate the strategy in CHO 1 and CHO 3. Within CHO 1, the CNRT services only the Donegal catchment area and consists of 2.0 WTE:

The CNRT in CHO 3 services all of CHO 3 and consists of 5.5 WTE:

There is currently no Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team operational within CHO 5, 8 and 9.

Moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to enhance the existing CNRTs in CHO 1 and 3 and 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,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,  
Assistant National Director,  
Change Planning and Delivery,  
Disability and Mental Health Service**

