



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

24th July 2024

Deputy Cathal Crowe,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: cathal.crowe@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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: 29615/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the progress made in adult multidisciplinary therapies services since 27 June 2020; the additional funding provided in successive budgets; his plans for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of an individual rather than by the diagnosis of the individual or the actual type of disability or service required. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the person's individual requirements and care needs. Services provided are tailored to the individual needs and requirements of the person with disabilities.

Therapy Services

Therapy services include Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics and Psychology services.

Therapy services are provided across all services including Acute Services, Primary Care Services, Mental Health, Older Persons Services and Disability Services.

Specialist disability services focus on providing supports to people with more complex disabilities throughout life, and on complementing the mainstream health and social care services provided. The primary goal of disability services is



to improve access for children and adults to essential health and social care services that support people to have equity of opportunity to maximise their potential of living a life with choice and control.

Please see the Table below which provides information regarding the year on year increase in funding for Multidisciplinary Services (Disability services)

Service area	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2021 Funding €000	2022 Funding €000	2023 Funding €000
Multidisciplinary Support (WTEs)	84,435	88,557	98,704	108,380	133,251	153,835
Total	1,772,300	1,903,625	2,054,500	2,210,900	2,347,380	2,518,552

Neuro Rehabilitation Services

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.

Funding has been secured for a Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) in CHO 2, 4, 6 & 7 and these teams are planned to be operational in Q4 2024. All CHOs are ready to progress to recruitment once Primary Notifications have been received.

Please see below table for the WTE approved for CNRTs in CHO 2, 4, 6 & 7 with an estimated full year cost of 1,002,355 excluding non-pay costs. This includes Multi Disciplinary therapy posts.

	WTE Approved
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1
Senior Occupational Therapist	2
Senior Physiotherapist	2
Senior Speech and Language Therapist	1
Social Worker, Senior Medical	1
Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine	0.5
Operational Team Lead	1
Psychologist Senior Clinical	1
Therapy Assistant	1
Grade IV Admin	1
Rehabilitation Co-Ordinator	0.5

There are two small CNRTs in existence that predate the strategy in CHO 1 and CHO 3. There is currently no Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team operational within CHO 5, 8 and 9.

Estimates bids were submitted to Budget 2024 with the objective to uplift existing teams in CHOs 1 & 3 and establish teams in CHO 5, 8 & 9 in 2024/2025 based on the CHO model. We have secured funding for an additional team in Budget 2024, location of this team to be agreed pending clarification on NSP 2024. Moving forward with the strategy the plan will be to enhance the existing CNRTs and to create a large population-based Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team within each RHA following the implementation of the new Regional Health Areas within Sláinteare.



In addition, estimates are being prepared for the Department on enhancing Day Services, Housing Teams and other adult services through provision of adult clinical and therapy posts, as well as required administrative supports; further details may be available subsequent to the 2025 estimates process being concluded.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

**Bernard O'Regan,
Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team**

