



Oifig an Stiúirthóir 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.

7th August 2024

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.-
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 30714/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated WTE staffing requirements for adult multidisciplinary therapy services, by grade, in tabular form; and the cost of providing for these posts.

PQ: 30715/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated requirement by 2032 for additional adult multidisciplinary therapy services; and the cost of providing for this.

HSE Response

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.

Multidisciplinary therapies play a vital role in maximising the potential of those born with a disability and in rebuilding capacity of those who have acquired a disability.

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.



With regard to the estimated WTE staffing requirements for adult multidisciplinary therapy services and the cost of providing for these posts, the Action Plan for Disability Services provides for 222 new posts in multidisciplinary services for adults by 2026.

This target will need to be achieved in phases, allowing for recruitment and operational implementation. Thus it is envisaged that new teams would be established in phases over 2025-2026.

An initial recruitment of 12 teams comprising 8 staff each (96 staff in total) would cost an estimated €7,161,665, costed as follows:

12 x Community Adult Case Manager – GVII = €885,336
12 x GIV Admin = €605,748
12 x Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) = €946,338
12 x Senior Social Worker = €988,489
12 x Senior Occupational Therapist = €891,592
12 x Senior SLT = €893,632
12 x Clinical Psychologist = €1,047,203
12 x Senior Physiotherapists = €903,409
Total of 96 posts at a cost of €7,161,665

A subsequent phase of 15 additional teams staffed on the same lines would cost an additional €9,548,887.

The above estimates total 216 posts. Additional disciplines may be identified by local need (e.g could include Positive Behaviour Supporters, Social Care Leaders, Employment Specialists, Dieticians, or others).

The overall cost of 222 additional posts is estimated at €17.17m.

The HSE also recognises the limited applicant pool available from existing and new graduates across a number of required disciplines. The HSE is also cognisant of the risks that establishing these new teams, given this limited pool, could pose risks to recruitment and retention of multidisciplinary staff in other areas of the HSE and of Disability Services.

With regard to the estimated requirement by 2032, further development beyond 2026 would be after fuller mapping of the requirements, identifying overlap and synergies with existing adult services and additional disciplines as identified by local need (may include Positive Behaviour Supporters, Social Care Leaders, Employment Specialists, Dieticians, and others).

Further development of specialist adult multidisciplinary disability therapy services would also be planned bearing in mind the constraints on supply of qualified professionals, and the need to ensure any new developments are not at the expense of other high-priority services for people with disabilities and others.

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 consisting of 12 WTE and all CHOs are progressing to recruitment.

Estimates bids will be submitted in Budget 2025 to fund those areas that do not have CNRTs and uplift the existing teams including the team in CHO 1 and CHO 3 that predate the strategy. 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 Sláintecare.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

