



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Seirbhísí 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 Head of Operations,
National Disability Services,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

8th March 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: brian.stanley@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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 10244/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to outline what financial supports are available to organisations such as (details supplied) to secure premises for their activities, programmes and support services. -

Details supplied: Down Syndrome Ireland

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.

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.

The role of the HSE is to provide a multi-disciplinary team approach which includes the provision of health and personal supports required by people with Down Syndrome and incorporates hospital, primary care and community services.

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.



The HSE acknowledges the role and contribution of non-statutory agencies in the development and provision of health and personal social services and is committed to the development of effective working relationships as enacted by the Health Act 2004.

The HSE has over 1,045 Service Arrangements or Grant Aid Agreements with approximately 419 organisations providing a wide variety of disability services on behalf of the HSE. These Service Arrangements and Grant Aid Agreements are covered by a Governance Framework.

There is continuous engagement between the HSE, the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and these agencies to ensure resources are prioritised on the basis of meeting the needs of people with a disability and those caring for them within the allocated resources.

Down Syndrome Ireland

As mentioned above, the HSE supports and provides funding to many organisations providing services on behalf of the HSE.

One of these organisations is Down Syndrome Ireland. This organisation has over 3,000 members and 26 branches nationwide and provides a range of services, including: Early Intervention and Development Programmes; Mother & Child Groups; Therapy Services; Employment Opportunities; Counselling and Adult Advocacy Services.

Down Syndrome Ireland has specialists in the areas of health, speech and language, early development, education and adult education and independence that enhance the lives of thousands of children and adults with Down syndrome across the country.

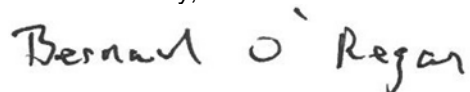
In 2023, the HSE Community Healthcare Area 7 (CHO7) provided €131, 398 in funding to Down Syndrome Ireland via a S39 Grant Aid Agreement and €18,172 in funding was provided by CHO 3 to Down Syndrome Limerick via a S39 Grant Aid Agreement.

(Please note:-The funding Information contained 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.

Additional funding requests should be made in the first instance to the local Community Healthcare Area.

While further increases in funding can only be considered within the parameters and scope of funding available to the HSE, it is important to note that 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.

Yours sincerely,



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