

**Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R

Head of Service Disability

HSE Community Services (Cavan,
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18th July, 2025

Eamon Scanlon T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 39083/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will commit to the establishment of an MS community worker in Sligo-Leitrim as it is the only region in the country lacking access to the community work service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CS CDLMS) Disability Services have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health, for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently, there is no funding allocation to the HSE Disability Services budget for the purpose of employing a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Ireland Community Worker in the Sligo/Leitrim area.

MS Ireland have submitted a business case for the recruitment of an MS Ireland Community Worker in the Sligo/Leitrim area to the HSE Disability Services. This has been reviewed by the Disability Services Manager and further information is required prior to submission to the Head of Service, Disability Services for the Community Services area of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo.

The following supports to people with MS are in place in the Sligo area:

- The HSE Physical & Sensory (P&S) Disability Service provides a Case Co-ordination and a Social Work Service. The P&S Disability Service also funds Home Support and Personal Assistant (PA) services for individuals in line with their assessed needs.
- The MS North West Therapy Centre, which receives funding through a Service Arrangement annually from the HSE Disability Services. The MS North West Therapy Centre aims to enrich the lives of people with MS and related neurological conditions by providing the following services and supports to clients and their families;
 - Physiotherapy, on a one to one basis.
 - Telehealth consultations.
 - Dry needling.
 - Online exercise classes, including circuit classes, chair based classes, upper limb classes and strength classes.
 - Specific equipment assessments.
 - Midday meditation sessions.

- Alternative therapies, including hyperbaric oxygen treatment, reflexology and counselling.
- Peer Support Group.
- Foot Care Clinic.

People with MS in the Sligo area also have access to HSE community based services such as Occupational Therapy and Orthotics.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability Services
Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach