



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,
Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan & Sligo)
The Isacc Butt Building, Ballybofey
Co. Donegal F93 YV9R
Tel+353(0)74 9189028/ 9189032
Email: Edel.Quinn@hse.ie

6th June, 2025

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

Re: PQ ref 22967/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update on the status of a fully staffed community neurorehabilitation team, to address the needs of neurological patients in Sligo-Leitrim; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH 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 Children, Disability and Equality for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing neuro-rehabilitation services in the community. The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 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 MCRNs around the country.

I am advised that funding was secured in the budget allocated by DCDE to the HSE for a 12 WTE Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) in HSE Galway, Roscommon and Mayo (former CHO2 area), HSE South West, HSE Dublin South and Wicklow and HSE Dublin South West, South City and West and Kildare West Wicklow. Recruitment is progressing for these teams and moving toward on-boarding of staff.

There are two CNRTs in existence in HSE Donegal and HSE Mid-West that pre-date the 2019 Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy. Estimates bids were submitted by the HSE under the Budget 2025 processes to secure additional funding to uplift these existing teams in line with the team structures set out in the 2019 strategy. There is currently no CNRT operational in HSE Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford/Wexford, HSE Midlands and HSE Dublin and North East. Estimates bids were submitted to Budget 2025 to fund a CNRT in those IHAs/RHA that do not have a CNRT including an uplift to the existing CNRT in Donegal to expand its remit to serve the Sligo/Leitrim area as a North West CNRT.

Moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to enhance the existing CNRTs, fund those Integrated Health Areas and Regional Health Areas (RHA) that do not have a CNRT and to create a large population-based CNRT within each RHA following the implementation of the new Regional Health Areas under the Slaintecare programme.

The Disability Action Plan outlines a team of 18 WTE per former Community Healthcare Organisation areas of which there were nine to be reconfigured into one larger CNRT per RHA by 2026. Estimates bids will be submitted by the HSE under Budget 2026 processes to enhance existing teams and fund CNRTs in those IHAs/RHAs that do not have funding for CNRT. Further developments will be dependent on government's allocation of funding to DCDE and its allocation to the HSE in respect of CNRT services.

The HSE continues to engage with DCDE through the annual budgetary process to secure the necessary funding to establish this essential service on the principle that there should be equity of access for those who need CNRT services regardless of where they live.

As per the 2025 National Service Plan the HSE is committed to developing CNRTs in line with the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy's Implementation Framework (2019) and enhance capacity for services nationally

In the Sligo Leitrim area, the following are some of the supports available to people with neurological needs:

1. The Transitional Living Unit (TLU) - this is a residential Monday to Friday rehabilitation service and also provides rehabilitation assistance supports to individuals in their own home in line with their assessed needs. The TLU operates as a partnership with the HSE and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Ireland through a Service Arrangement contract. The local ABI Service Manager, who is also the Person In Charge for the TLU, manages the TLU in line with the regulatory requirements monitored by the Health Information & Quality Authority.
2. A standalone ABI Ireland Resource Centre in Sligo town.
3. The HSE Physical and Sensory (P&S) Disability Service, which provides a Case Coordination and Social Work Service to people with a physical or sensory disability. The P&S Disability Service Team operates in conjunction with voluntary providers, such as Vision Ireland. As with the TLU, the P&S Service also provides case coordination support and Occupational Therapy input into the Community Brain Injury Team.

4. There are a number of HSE funded or part funded organisations and groups in the Sligo Leitrim area who also provide a range of resources to meet the needs of people with diagnosed neurological conditions. These include:

- The Multiple Sclerosis North West Therapy CentreVision Ireland
- CHIME, the hearing support group
- The Motor Neurone Disease Association
- The Neurology Support Centre

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