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2nd July 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 19/25509

To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons waiting for home support packages; and the waiting list for homecare packages by CHO and LHO in tabular form

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides for;

- 17.9m home support hours to be delivered to 53,000 people inclusive of 410,000 hours/550 home support packages funded under the Winter Initiative 2018/2019
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' increases. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised. As of 30th May 2019, 6,813 people nationally were waiting for funding for a home support service. See Table 1 below for a breakdown by CHO.

The numbers on the waiting list reflect a point in time and those people who are on the waiting list are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resource and as determined by local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs. If clients are assessed and approved for home support and funding is not immediately available, these cases are included on the waiting list for funding.

The level of activity and associated costs in relation to home support is monitored on an on-going basis by the Chief Officers across their CHOs and with the Head of Operations Services for Older People nationally to ensure that those with the greatest needs are supported and that the overall expenditure on home support services by the HSE does not exceed the available funding.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services.

- This is a key action under the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and will improve access to home support services.
- It will also help to improve access to the home support services that people need in an affordable and sustainable way.
- The system of regulation for home support will help to ensure that the public can be confident that the services provided are of a high standard.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 also sets out a very significant programme of work aimed at developing and improving health and social care generally, with a significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.

Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Table 1 – Waiting List - Number of Clients Assessed & Waiting for Home Support as at 31st May 2019

| National Waiting List Persons Waiting on Funding | | Total |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
| National Total | | 6,819 |
| CHO 1 | Total | 742 |
| | Cavan Monaghan | 320 |
| | Donegal | 192 |
| | Sligo Leitrim | 230 |
| CHO 2 | Total | 779 |
| | Galway | 285 |
| | Mayo | 341 |
| | Roscommon | 153 |
| CHO 3 | Total | 523 |
| | Clare | 398 |
| | Limerick | 76 |
| | North Tipperary East Limerick | 49 |
| CHO 4 | Total | 286 |
| | Kerry | 30 |
| | North Cork | 24 |
| | North Lee | 13 |
| | South Lee | 94 |
| | West Cork | 125 |
| CHO 5 | Total | 768 |
| | Carlow Kilkenny | 0 |
| | South Tipperary | 49 |
| | Waterford | 79 |
| | Wexford | 640 |
| CHO 6 | Total | 208 |
| | Dublin South East | 0 |
| | Dun Laoghaire | 0 |
| | Wicklow | 208 |
| CHO 7 | Total | 1080 |
| | Dublin South City | 297 |
| | Dublin South West | 237 |
| | Dublin West | 267 |
| | Kildare West Wicklow | 279 |
| CHO 8 | Total | 523 |
| | Laois Offaly | 305 |
| | Longford Westmeath | 11 |
| | Louth | 0 |
| | Meath | 207 |
| CHO 9 | Total | 1910 |
| | Dublin North | 863 |
| | Dublin North Central | 251 |
| | Dublin North West | 796 |