



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
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Services for Older People

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04 March 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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: 24/1365

To ask the Minister for Health the reason HSE-funded home care providers have stopped taking physically well older people for walks; and if a risk assessment has been undertaken by him in relation to the danger posed by HSE-funded home care providers allowing physically well older people with dementia leave their homes on their own without accompanying them for a walk.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

The type of support that is provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties. The Home Support Service which people receive is based on the client's care needs as assessed by clinical staff. The support provided and associated care plan will be determined by the assessed level of dependency, the client's ability to undertake activities of daily living and other support structures in place.

In the case of a client currently in receipt of service, who may require a change to their individual Home Support Plan, contact can be made to his/her local Home Support office to request a review whereupon a further assessment will be undertaken.

The National Guidelines & Procedures for the Standardised Implementation of the Home Support Service 2018 (Page 6 and 36 for reference) is available to view at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/national-guidelines-and-procedures-for-the-standardised-implementation-of-the-home-support-service-hss-guidelines.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service – Home Support
Services for Older People
Community Operations