



**Leas Stiúirthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte.**

**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery
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25th January 2024

Deputy Roisin Shortall,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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: 2422/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on plans to provide a community neurorehabilitation team in all nine CHOs; the timeline he is working towards for each CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response:

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

In order to test the feasibility of this new MCRN model in the Irish context, a decision was made by the National Neuro-Rehabilitation Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO 6 and CHO 7, to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out. Sláintecare provided funding in 2020 for two small Community Neuro Rehabilitation Teams (CNRTs) in CHO 6 & 7, with five WTE in each



team. There were concerns around the small team size and agreeing a model of governance. Funding has been secured in Budget 2024 to uplift these teams to 13 WTE in each CHO. Funding was secured in the 2023 budget to establish two 13 WTE community neuro rehabilitation teams (CNRTs) in CHO 2 and CHO 4 and early discussions have ensued with key stakeholders in CHO 9 to progress operationalising of a team in this CHO following funding approval in Budget 2024.

Local Implementation Groups (LIG) have been established in all four CHOs and all areas are ready to commence recruitment, pending approval to recruit in line with overall HSE recruitment targets.

I trust that this will be of assistance.

Mise le meas,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery,
Disability and Mental Health Services**

