



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

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7 June 2024

Deputy Paul Donnelly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 23249/24

To ask the Minister for Health the locations where the Pathfinder programme is currently available; and the plans to increase this number of locations where the Pathfinder programme will be available, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has 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.

Pathfinder is a service designed to safely keep older people who phone 112/999 in their own home rather than taking them to a hospital emergency department. It is an NAS initiative which is currently dependent on the allocation of Health and Social Care Professional (HSCP) resources from acute hospitals.

Pathfinder is currently in operation in a number of locations around the country including Limerick, Tralee, Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford, Galway, Letterkenny and North Dublin and was initially intended to operate as a winter plan initiative.

As part of future strategic planning, NAS has proposed the stabilisation, implementation and expansion of a model that is informed by a clinical evaluation of the current model, currently underway, and which has already identified some challenges and some changes that a future model will need to address, if further expansion is to be considered.

For now, the HSE' National Service Plan 2024 does not make any provision for the long term funding of such services. Therefore, the focus remains on evaluating the model in 2024 to inform any potential expansion from 2025 onwards.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

