



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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Deputy Colm Brophy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19th December, 2024

PQ: 45922/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of fully staffing the Enhanced Community Care Programme.

Dear Deputy Brophy,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

In line with Sláintecare, the Enhanced Community Care Programme's (ECC) objective is to deliver increased levels of health care with service delivery reoriented towards general practice, primary care and community-based services. The focus is on implementing an end-to-end care pathway that will care for people at home and over time prevent referrals and admissions to acute hospitals where it is safe and appropriate to do so, and enable a "home first" approach.

The ECC Programme (a multiyear investment programme) with an indicative allocation of 3,500 WTE and €240m for the establishment of 96 CHNs, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Older people, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease, national coverage for Community Intervention Teams and the development of a volunteer-type model in collaboration with Alone.

To date, significant progress has been made, with the establishment of:

- All 96 Community Healthcare Networks
- 27 Community Specialist Teams for Older People
- 26 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease
- All 21 CITs
- Significantly improved access to diagnostic services.

Alongside this broader implementation, almost 2,810 staff have been on-boarded or are at an advanced stage of recruitment under ECC.

The full year cost of the circa 3500 wte required to staff the complete rollout of the ECC Programme is approximately €250m.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**