



SOCIAL CARE DIVISION - KEY POINTS & RESPONSES TO SOME QUERIES

SOCIAL CARE (ELDERLY & DISABILITY SERVICES) FUNDING

The social care budget for 2014 is set at €3,055.3m which is a small increase of 0.5% on the 2013 position.

This includes reductions of €31.3m, which are principally pay related reductions associated with Haddington Road, the employment control framework (moratorium) and incentivised career break.

It also includes additional resource of €45m representing €14m developments in disability services and additional resource of €31m to cover deficits in disability and older people services.

DISABILITY SERVICES – KEY POINTS

Disability services are embarking on a large scale reform programme to implement the VfM & Policy Review which will transform our model of service to a community based model of person centred care. 2014 will see a number of key steps in implementing the change programme:

- An additional investment of €14m and 130 additional staff will;
 - Provide places for an estimated 1,200 young people leaving school or Rehabilitative Training nationwide - 50 additional staff - €7m
 - Provide “emergency” placements for people with disabilities whose care or family circumstances have changed and who now require an immediate and unplanned service response €3m
 - Roll out a new model of assessment and intervention, the objective of which is to provide one clear referral pathway for all children (0 – 18's), irrespective of their disability, where they live or the school they attend - 80 additional therapy staff -€4m
- Reconfiguring existing resources will;
 - Deliver a more person centred model of care and support, with more than 150 people moving to more appropriate homes in the community
 - Realisation of €5m efficiencies in line with the VfM & Policy Review

Specific Queries

1. Is disability funding being maintained at the same level as last year?

The disability budget is being maintained broadly in line with 2013, with targeted investment of €14m for the developments outlined above and some additional resource to cover underlying deficits.

The only reductions in the budget for disability services is €15.3m which are principally pay related reductions associated with Haddington Road, (€11.6m) and the employment control framework (moratorium) and incentivised career break (€3.7m).

The implementation of the VfM and Policy Review will be a key priority in 2014, realising €5m savings, but more importantly rolling out a new model of person centred care.

2. What services could suffer?

Services should not be impacted upon as the main reductions relate to Haddington road agreement which is to be non service impacting and equally the VfM review is about efficiencies and not service reduction

3. Any new initiatives?

An additional investment of €14m and 130 additional staff will;

- Provide for an estimated 1,200 young people leaving school or Rehabilitative Training through out the country €7m
- Provide “emergency” placements for people with disabilities whose care or family circumstances have changed and who now require an immediate and unplanned service response €3m
- Roll out a new model of assessment and intervention, the objective of which is to provide one clear pathway for all children 0 – 18’s, irrespective of their disability, where they live or the school they attend - 80 additional therapy staff, to increase services for children with all disabilities including autism €4m

4. How many hours of personal assistance/ home support is being provided in 2014?

- **Personal Assistant Hours** No. of PA hours delivered to adults with a physical and / or sensory disability **target of 1.3m in 2014**
- **Home Support Hours** No. of Home Support hours delivered to people with disabilities **target of 2.4m 2014**

- a. Is this a change to 2013 levels? **No change to target levels between 2013 and 2014**
- b. What about respite services - same as last year? **No change to target levels between 2013 and 2014**

SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – KEY POINTS

Services for Older People priorities in 2014 will emphasise providing comprehensive home care and community supports, to maintain older people in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

To support this priority, the health service will

- Maintain existing home help services (10.3m hours nationally) and home care packages (for 10,870 people), at 2013 levels
- Allocate €23m from nursing home support scheme (A Fair Deal) to increase home care & community supports
 - Using €10m to provide new intensive home care packages, to benefit approximately 250 people with complex care needs (190 people at any one time). An intensive home care package will provide a greater range and level of services to older people and their families, including a combination of nursing, therapy, respite, aids and appliances, home help as appropriate to their needs.
 - Targeting €3m to provide an additional 45 community support and intermediate beds to benefit 780 people approximately These will be targeted in key locations where there are particular service pressures in acute hospitals with delayed discharges. This will support patients early discharge from hospital to their own home.

- Using €10m to maintain the current level of short stay public bed provision (1,860 beds nation wide) which provide respite, rehabilitation and step down services.

Nursing Home Support Scheme

The Nursing Home Support Scheme will continue to support over 22,000 in long term residential care at a cost of €939m. In shifting the emphasis of the model of care to home and community supports, we will maintain an additional 1,000 older people to continue to live in their own homes. The overall number of people to be supported in long stay care in 2014 has consequently been reduced by 700.

As in 2013, the Nursing Home Support Scheme (NHSS) will require careful management of applications as existing places become vacant to minimize waiting times for funding. There will be increased options available to support older people to remain at home including those with dementia who are at risk of admission to residential care.

Single Assessment Tool

The roll out in 2014 of a standardised needs assessment process called “Single Assessment Tool (SAT)”, will underpin the phased implementation of a new integrated model of care for older people. It will identify people with similar needs and circumstances in a uniform way which will bring a more equitable approach to the level and range of services provided.

Specific Queries

1. Home help and home care packages? funding level and number of hours?

The HSE provides home help and home care packages to approximately 56,000 people at any one time within an overall budget of €315m. The target level of service provided in 2012 and 2013 has been maintained in the 2014 Service Plan with 10.3m home help hours to be provided and home care packages to be provided to 10,870

2. Fair Deal - a small reduction, but will it have a large impact?

The Nursing Home Support Scheme (NHSS) will continue to support over 22,000 in long term residential care at a cost of €939m. By allocating €23m to home care and community supports, we will maintain an additional 1,000 older people in their own homes, through new intensive home care packages and intermediate care beds. The overall figure to be supported in long stay care in 2014 has consequently been reduced by 700.

As in 2013, NHSS will require careful management of applications as existing places become vacant to minimize waiting times for funding, at the same time there will be increased options available to support older people to remain at home including those with dementia at risk of admission to residential care

3. Community Nursing Home Units - any changes to their service delivery?

No change planned to service delivery. Existing bed levels to be maintained,

€10m of the €23m reallocated from A Fair Deal, is being used to maintain the current level of short stay public bed provision (1,860 beds nationwide) which provide respite, rehabilitation and step down services. By taking this initiative there are no bed closures planned in 2014.