

Budget 2027 Ask:

MS Ireland is seeking funding for a programme to directly employ two Senior Physiotherapists to deliver specialist neurological physiotherapy services in the Dublin and South East Regional Health Area (RHA). This includes South-East Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow.

These services would support people living with MS and other neurological conditions including Parkinson's disease, stroke and brain injury. These will be delivered on an individual and group basis, both online and in person.



People living with MS and other neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, brain injury, spinal injury and ataxia need access to specialist physiotherapy services to stay active, independent and living well in their communities.

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- There is insufficient availability of specialist physiotherapy services locally for people living with neurological conditions.
 - Long waiting lists for primary care physiotherapy mean many people do not get the physiotherapy treatment they need.
 - This creates a post-rehabilitation void for people leaving Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams (CNRTs).

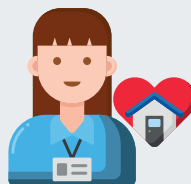
Without ongoing rehabilitation support, people may experience:



Increased falls



Worsening mobility and fatigue



Reduced independence



Increased hospital utilisation

Specialist physiotherapy programmes delivered by MS Ireland physiotherapists provide targeted symptom management and exercise programmes designed specifically for neurological conditions keeping people well at home and preventing worsening disability.

The service will:

1

Deliver specialist neurological physiotherapy programmes

2

Support those unable to access primary care physiotherapy

3

Act as an egress pathway from Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams (CNRTs)

4

Help people maintain mobility, independence and quality of life

We require:

€221,076
(annually)

Dublin South East RHA funding will support two specialist physiotherapy posts across this large geographical region delivering group and individual programmes for people with MS and other neurological conditions.

In the Dublin and South East RHA, approximately 3,558 people are living with multiple sclerosis, within a wider population of over approximately 155,000 people living with neurological conditions in this region.

This ask is part of a national €1 million investment in MS Ireland's specialist neurological physiotherapy services.

Supporting Sláintecare:

Specialist neurological physiotherapy services support the Sláintecare vision of "Right Care, Right Time, Right Place."

The roll out of this service in Dublin and the South East will end the postcode lottery that currently exists for people living with MS and other neurological conditions living in your community.

Impact of MS Ireland Physiotherapy Services



Reduction in usage of healthcare services by 43.1%



A&E and inpatient services utilisation reduced by 33% and 57.4% reduction in bed days



Significant improvements in quality of life (20.2%), fatigue (16%) and mental health (20%)



Reduce the number of people falling*, and the number of falls they have (due to attending our physiotherapist-led programmes) by 49%

These services satisfy a multi-pronged need, reducing pressure on primary care waiting lists and hospital services, providing an egress point from the new Community Neurorehab Teams, while also keeping people well at home.

*People with MS, Stroke and Parkinson's (PD) fall at a similar rate to the over 85's (50% in a three month period).

Budget 2027 Ask:

MS Ireland is seeking funding for a programme to directly employ two Senior Physiotherapists to deliver specialist neurological physiotherapy services in the South West Regional Health Area (RHA), which includes Cork and Kerry.

These services would support people living with MS and other neurological conditions including Parkinson's disease, stroke and brain injury. These will be delivered on an individual and group basis, both online and in person.



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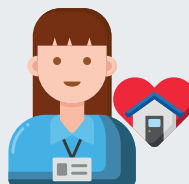
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Act as an egress pathway from Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams (CNRTs)

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Help people maintain mobility, independence and quality of life

We require:

€221,076
(annually)

The South West RHA funding will support two specialist physiotherapy posts across this large geographical region delivering group and individual programmes for people with MS and other neurological conditions.

In the South West RHA, approximately 1,408 people are living with multiple sclerosis, within a wider population of over approximately 118,500 people living with neurological conditions in this region.

This ask is part of a national €1 million investment in MS Ireland's specialist neurological physiotherapy services.

Supporting Sláintecare:

Specialist neurological physiotherapy services support the Sláintecare vision of "Right Care, Right Time, Right Place."

The roll out of this service in the South West will end the postcode lottery that currently exists for people living with MS and other neurological conditions living in your community.

Impact of MS Ireland Physiotherapy Services



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Budget 2027 Ask:

MS Ireland is seeking an additional investment of €72,997.56 annually to fund a Community Worker post in Sligo-Leitrim, ensuring the provision of casework services to people with Multiple Sclerosis (PwMS) in the region.

At present, MS Ireland currently provides a Community Work service in all counties in the Republic of Ireland, except for Sligo and Leitrim. The absence of a dedicated worker in Sligo-Leitrim leaves PwMS in the region without structured, ongoing support.



People living with MS require access to coordinated, specialist supports to manage symptoms, maintain independence and remain active in their communities. People with MS frequently require support with access to healthcare, emotional support, financial welfare, home supports, employment accommodations, coordination of care and accessing equipment.



There is currently a significant gap in locally accessible supports for people living with MS in Sligo and Leitrim. MS Ireland currently provides a Community Work service in all counties in the Republic of Ireland except Sligo and Leitrim, leaving many people reliant on limited phone-based support only.



It is frequently reported that following diagnosis, people living with MS in Sligo and Leitrim are left with no one to speak to and no structured support system. Phone support alone is not sufficient, particularly where staff are not locally based and are limited in the information and referrals they can provide.



People living with MS often face challenges accessing information, financial supports, employment accommodations and community services at the time they need them most. Lack of coordinated, local support creates barriers to early intervention and contributes to poorer outcomes and increased pressure on other healthcare professionals and statutory services.



MS Ireland's Community Worker Service helps fill this gap by providing tailored casework support, advocacy, referrals and coordination of care from diagnosis through all stages of the disease. The service delivers integrated, community-based care in line with Sláintecare principles and ensures people living with MS can access appropriate supports in a timely and person-centred way.

The Community Worker Will Provide:



Comprehensive casework support for PwMS and their families, from diagnosis through disease progression.



Improved access to early intervention services, which are proven to yield better outcomes for PwMS.



Reduced pressure on Case Managers, Occupational Therapists, and Social Workers by taking on tasks more suited to a Community Worker.



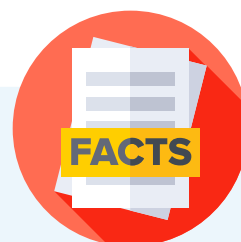
Stronger collaboration with HSE and statutory services, in line with Sláintecare's vision of integrated, accessible, locally delivered services.



Enhanced visibility and impact of MS Ireland's services in the Northwest Region.

We require:

€72,998
(annually)



Over 300 people with MS estimated in Sligo/Leitrim

122 already known to MS Ireland, with 2,538 people nationally receiving 1:1 casework in 2024 and new referrals up 26%.

100% more social workers needed

The Irish Association of Social Work notes only 250 social workers qualify per year when 500 are needed, making the community worker role even more critical.

Benefits of the service

Benefits of this service include tailored support in symptom management, employment, housing, education, and emotional well-being, as well as advocacy and referrals to essential services. They will ensure PwMS and their families receive holistic, goal-oriented support.

Supporting Sláintecare:

This investment aligns with Sláintecare's objective of providing the right care in the right place at the right time. The estimated cost for this post, including salary and overheads, is €72,997.56 per annum.

By funding this additional post, MS Ireland will ensure that PwMS in Sligo-Leitrim receive the same level of care as those throughout the rest of the country, significantly improving their quality of life and health outcomes.