

The Neuro-Mapping Project - Mapping existing services provided by the voluntary sector for people living with neurological disabilities/conditions in the community

Overview of Report Findings and Next Steps



Background and Context

The vast majority of the 800,000 people with neurological conditions living in Ireland, live in the community. Most of the services that people with neurological conditions access in the community are provided by voluntary organisations, in addition to services provided by the HSE.



There are over 60 community-based voluntary organisations providing services to people with a neurological condition across Ireland. Some provide specialist services and others more generalized supports. In addition, there are some providing national services and others who are operating in specific geographic locations.

Whilst recognizing the significant contribution that the voluntary disability sector provides to support people with neurological conditions, there are challenges in capturing the breadth of provision of this work. This is due largely to the range and scale of voluntary organisations working in this sector and the lack of a framework to collectively describe these services.



What Has Happened So Far?

The Neuro-Mapping project was funded through the HSE Strengthening Disability Services Fund. It was designed to respond to the challenge of capturing the breadth of voluntary provision to people with neurological conditions.

The three key outputs from the project are summarised below:

1. Service Mapping Template

The Service Mapping Template comprises of 10 service categories and 98 service types to describe the provision of services in the community provided by DFI and NAI member organisations. The Template was developed using design thinking methodology, with input from over 40 disability voluntary organisations, in order that common language is used to describe the breadth of service provision by voluntary organisations.

10 Categories in Service Mapping Template	
1. Assessment and Planning	6. Community Integration and Participation
2. Therapeutic and Clinical Supports	7. Vocational/Employment/ Training/Rehabilitative Supports
3. Supported Living/ Accommodation Support	8. Information, Advocacy and Education
4. Respite	9. Family and Caregiver Supports
5. Accessibility Supports, Activities of Daily Living and Long-Term Supports	10. Co-ordination and Point of Contact

2. Baseline Mapping

A Baseline Mapping of current service provision by disability voluntary organisation across each CHO was carried out using the Service Mapping Template. This mapping has provided key insights on current service provision by voluntary organisations and indicates the range of voluntary services available across each CHO by the 44 participating organisations.



3. Joint Service Initiatives

The project also captured five examples of joint service initiatives between voluntary providers and the HSE to demonstrate existing collaborations. The five examples give an insight into the types of collaboration that are taking place and they also demonstrate how these partnerships can lead to integration and improvement in service options for people with neurological conditions.



Policy Context

These outputs will support the progression of the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy by highlighting the breadth of voluntary organisation service provision and shining a spotlight on good collaborative practice to be replicated moving forward.

The findings resonate with the work of the Department of Health Dialogue Forum, in particular the production of the partnership principles for statutory and voluntary organisations.

Next Steps



The Project Partners have agreed to progress several key actions in the next phase of the project to address the report's findings:

- The service mapping template will need to be developed to encompass statutory service provision and establish a common language for all community service provision. It will also be important to assimilate the language used in the mapping template into future service frameworks.

- Engagement with both statutory and voluntary providers is required to understand how neurorehabilitation services are delivered on the ground in communities and how voluntary organisations work with each other and HSE services. This will help to provide insight into the variations in the services, and patient pathways across CHOs, as well as the impact of community neurorehabilitation teams where these are in place.
- It is also intended to examine the current patient journey through these services, through the experiences of people with neurological conditions and their families, and this will demonstrate ways to improve signposting to existing supports.



Disability Federation of Ireland

The Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI, is a federation of over 100 member organisations working with others to achieve a vision of an Ireland where people with disabilities are participating fully in all aspects of society.

Our mission is to work with people with disabilities to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and ensure their equal participation in society.

Through our work we contribute to:

- Policy implementation developments at national level spanning income and access to community participation.
- Member organisations being sustainable and in a stronger position to support people with disabilities to have a full life.
- People with disabilities being more active within their communities, as participants, advocates, and representatives.

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) brings together 30 non-profit organisations to advocate for the rights of 800,000 people in Ireland living with a neurological condition.

Founded in 2003, the NAI advocates for the development of quality services for people with neurological conditions. Our campaigns are rooted in the experience of our members and the people and families with whom they work. We provide a united and expert voice on neurological care through advocacy, policy development, and awareness raising.



FULL
REPORT



SERVICE MAPPING
TEMPLATE



EMAIL



AUDIO
VERSION

The full report can be accessed
by scanning this QR code.



The Project Partners would like to acknowledge Crowe Ireland for their work on this project.