



## **Community Brain Injury Services, Sligo, Leitrim & West Cavan**

This service is a result of the identification of the need for ABI specific services in the Sligo, Leitrim & West Cavan area. In order to promote the most effective response to people with ABI, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland and the Physical & Sensory Disability Dept. of the HSE established an ABI Brain Injury Team to provide rehabilitation opportunities for people affected by ABI, and to promote as seamless a service as possible.

The team is an Acquired Brain Injury Ireland & HSE Partnership and includes

Case Coordinator:	<b>Phil McGoldrick</b>
Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist:	<b>Dr Niamh Nangle</b>
Senior Occupational Therapist:	<b>Rosemary Dillon</b>
Local Services Manager:	<b>Teresa O'Boyle</b>
Family Liaison	<b>To be appointed</b>

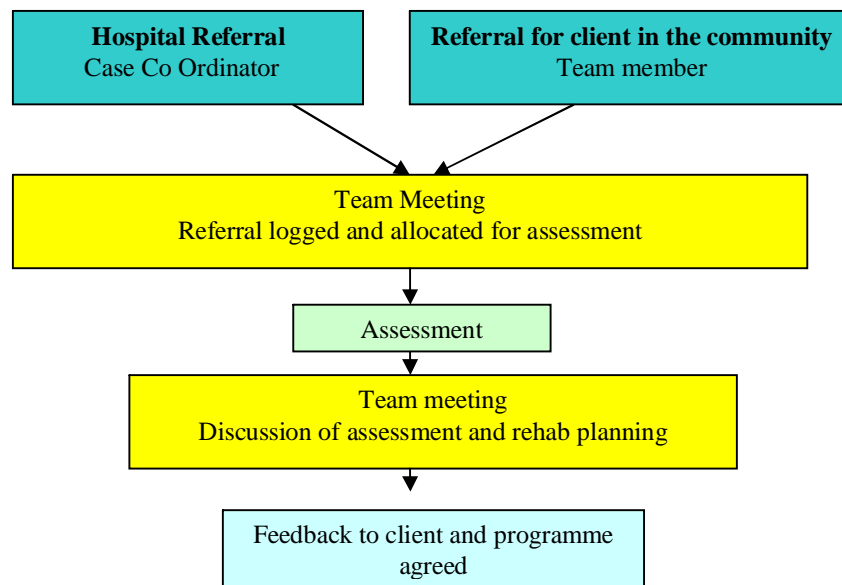
### **Referral Process:**

While referrals are accepted by all members of the team they are processed through the ABI Case Coordinator. All referrals are discussed by the ABI team and appropriate assessments arranged.

**Referrals forms are available from the ABI team, JFK House, JFK Parade and the Peter Bradley Foundation, Tonaphubble, Sligo.**

### **Assessment:**

People with an ABI and a relative are seen for a comprehensive initial assessment covering background history and presenting problems. Neuropsychological, Occupational Therapy, and family needs assessments are arranged as appropriate following initial assessment. External referral to Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Community Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry, etc. are made by the team as appropriate.



### **SPECIALIST SERVICES:**

#### **CONCUSSION/MILD HEAD INJURY CLINIC**

This service provides information and advice to people following mild head injury, and treatment for people with persisting post concussion symptoms.

#### **ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICES: REHABILITATION SERVICES**

##### **Post Acute Monitoring:**

In the early stages following injury people are screened by the ABI Case Coordinator and neuropsychological screening assessments are carried out if necessary. Advice and support is provided on management of early difficulties. Referral is made to the rehabilitation programme when appropriate.

##### **Rehabilitation Programme:**

The programme uses a combination of individual and group based services. These include education groups, a range of cognitive rehabilitation and therapy groups, supported and transitional group rehabilitation activities, individual cognitive rehabilitation, neuropsychotherapy, and community living skills.

The appropriate input is recommended to the person and family based on the assessment and can range from occasional individual therapy sessions to an intensive 5 day programme, depending on need. This is a rolling programme and person served can join activities and individual rehabilitation programmes at any time.

**Family Support Programme:**

The aim of this service is to increase awareness and understanding of the nature and effects of ABI, to provide information and advice about the management of ABI, and to facilitate and promote positive coping and adjustment in family and friends.

Family members are included in the needs assessment process, programme planning, and review phases. In addition, specific family supports are made available to family members.

The rehabilitation and family support programmes are run jointly by Acquired Brain Injury Ireland and HSE. Referral is through the ABI Team.

**Leisure and Lifestyle Programme:**

This is a weekend programme, run through the Transitional Living Unit, which focuses on finding a work–leisure balance after ABI, exploring barriers to leisure, and identifying appropriate long term leisure activity.

**Rehabilitative Training:**

This is a 2 year programme run by the HSE and is tailored to clients requiring a protracted period of intensive rehabilitation. The course has core modules including personal effectiveness, personal development training, communications, drama, I.T. skills, brain injury awareness and management, career information, group projects, and social and leisure opportunities.

**Transitional Living Unit**

This is a house in the community staffed by trained Rehabilitation Assistants. Three beds are available to persons with ABI who require assistance to return to independent living.

A further rehabilitative respite bed is available to person with ABI who require a period of assessment, a ‘refresher’ period of rehabilitation, or to enable those who live rurally to access rehabilitation.

Residents are responsible for all the tasks required of a person living in this setting, with staff available to observe and assess performance in all areas of daily living.

The person served also attends the rehabilitation programme or rehabilitative training. The Unit is run by Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. Referral to the unit is through the ABI team.

## **LONG TERM SERVICES**

### **Home and Personal Support Services**

These services are provided through the Irish Wheelchair Association and HSE Home Help and are accessed through the ABI Case Coordinator.

ABI specific day and residential services are not currently available but are being planned by the HSE. However, a range of services is being accessed and supported by the ABI team. These include:

- Rehab Care, Sligo & Leitrim
- Irish Wheelchair Association – Day Resource Activity Centres, Sligo and Leitrim
- North Leitrim Men’s Group

Referrals can be made to these services through the ABI Case Coordinator.

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

ABI Support Group – Marguerite Dent, Banff, Ballincar, Sligo

Stroke Group – Ed Blake, Drumiskabole, Carraroe, Sligo.

**For further information on the services available please contact**

**the ABI Team through the Physical & Sensory Disability Service on 071-9135001 or Acquired Brain Injury Ireland on 071 -9153472.**



Acquired Brain Injury Ireland  
2 Racecourt Manor, Tonaphubble, Sligo  
Tel: 071 9153472



Health Service Executive – North West  
Physical & Sensory Disability Service, Sligo, Leitrim, &  
West Cavan, JFK House,  
Kennedy Parade, Sligo  
Tel 071 913 5001