



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
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Mental Health Service  
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24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Deputy Tom Neville TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 21719/18 To ask the Minister for Health the mental health services initiatives specifically tailored towards men and women respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Neville,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The majority of mental health initiatives are not tailored to a specific gender however there are a small number specifically tailored towards men and women respectively and they are outlined below:

The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service Model of Care was formally approved and launched by the HSE in November, 2017. The Model of Care is based on the maternity networks recommended in the National Maternity Strategy. This means the specialist perinatal mental health services will be aligned to hospital groups and developed in a hub and spoke format so all 19 maternity services are included in the model. In each hospital group, the maternity service with the highest number of deliveries will be the hub. These are:

- Dublin Midlands HG – Coombe Women & Infants University Maternity Hospital
- Ireland East HG – National Maternity Hospital
- RCSI Hospital Group (HG) – Rotunda Hospital
- Saolta HG – Galway University Hospital
- South/Southwest HG – Cork University Maternity Hospital
- University of Limerick HG – University Maternity Hospital Limerick

The Department of Health allocated €1m in Programme for Government (PFG) funding in 2017 to initiate this implementation with a further €2m PFG funding in 2018. From December 2017 onwards the focus of the Clinical Lead and Programme Manager has been on supporting local services to recruit the staff through the 2017 funding allocation.

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Additionally services and initiatives funded by NOSP are aligned with the goals and specific actions of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide, 2015-2020. These include actions that are targeted population-wide and others that are targeted for priority groups i.e. groups that have consistently been shown by both national and international research to have increased risk of suicidal behaviour. Additional groups, for whom there is limited /less consistent evidence of increased vulnerability to suicide, are also considered in the strategy.

Organisations can apply for funding through the funding application process which is subject to meeting various criteria and budget being available. All funded organisations must be able to provide evidence that they meet the mandatory governance requirements and that the service they provide is safe, evidence informed and is of sound financial structure and practice. NOSP's focus is on NGOs with national reach and/or applicability.

Details of all agencies and initiatives funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention can be found in the NOSP 2016 Annual Report, [here](#). The majority of these agencies provide supports or services to both men and women.

The following agencies provide services or initiatives specifically for men;

**Men's Health Forum** - (NOSP funding of €17,489 in 2016 and €42,503 in 2017)

In recent years, the Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI, <http://www.mhfi.org/>) has received funding from NOSP to undertake the *Engaging Young Men Project* and the *Connecting with Young Men Programme*. This year NOSP funded the *Middle Aged Men and Suicide in Ireland Report*<sup>1</sup> in order to gain greater insight into the risk and protective factors of this priority group and to make strategic recommendations for suicide reduction measures. The NOSP will now work with and support the Men's Health Forum in moving to the next phase, of implementing a number of the strategic recommendations.

### Mojo Project

- **Mental Health Ireland** - NOSP funding of €155,141 in 2016 and €321,802 in 2017
- **South Dublin County Partnership** - NOSP funding of €17,489 in 2016 and €42,570 in 2017

Mojo (<http://www.mojo.ngo/>) is a programme for men who are affected by unemployment and/or the recession and who are finding it difficult to cope. The programme aims to motivate the participants to make positive changes to their lives, by providing a training programme that focuses on developing their resilience to their current situation and offering them support to access local services that can help them to return to work or education. Mojo is based on national and international research that highlights the correlation between mental health challenges, unemployment and suicide.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/news/middle-aged-men-report.html>



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I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services