



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Straitéis agus Pleanáil Oifig na Míchumas,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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15th April 2019

Deputy Fiona O' Loughlin
Dail Eireann,
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Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
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Dear Deputy O' Loughlin

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 14988/19

To ask the Minister for Health if there has been progress in implementing the plan for effective participation in decision-making for persons with disabilities, launched in September 2018 under the Transforming Lives programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Effective participation in Decision Making for people with disabilities is about giving a real voice to people with disabilities in terms of how their services/supports will be developed and delivered into the future.

Following the publication of the report "Effective Participation in Decision Making – planning for ordinary lives in ordinary places" on 24th September 2018, the HSE issued a media broadcast to all HSE staff and included the link to the report. Separately the report was circulated to community healthcare organisations and umbrella groups that represent disability organisations, to be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.

A media statement was issued and the launch of the report was announced on social media.

The first recommendation seeks to have the report published in a variety of formats and along with the regular format it is available in plain English, easy read and plain English with large font. A step by step guide to implementation is also available on HSE.ie. See link below:

www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/effective-participation-in-decision-making-implementation-for-hse-staff.pdf

The next recommendation detailed the need for an Inclusive Implementation Group to oversee the roll out of the step by step guide. It was clear that additional resources would be required to raise awareness and provide training; however that was not available given the competing demands of Budget 2019.

In the meantime, progress is being made in some areas of the country where individuals with disabilities have engaged with local services to see what could be done within existing resources. At a recent HSE Disability National Consultative Forum the chair undertook to establish what progress has been made across the country and the Umbrella Groups agreed to liaise with their members to establish the current position within Disability organisations. It was agreed to be an agenda item for the June meeting and a further update will be available after that.

I also attach a copy of the final published report for ease of reference.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Meany,
Head of Disability Strategy and Planning