



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

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17th December, 2019

Deputy Brendan Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ Ref: 50856/19: The difficulties facing Cavan/Monaghan Drug Awareness Services and the possibility of services ceasing and if additional funding will be allocated to the regional drug task forces

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

Government policy in relation to drug and alcohol addiction services is set out in the national drugs strategy, *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - a health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025*. The Strategy commits to expanding the availability and geographical spread of relevant quality drug and alcohol services and to improve the range of services available, based on identified need. Drug and alcohol task forces play a key role in assessing the extent and nature of the drug problem in local communities. They also ensure that a coordinated approach is taken across all sectors to address substance misuse based on the identified needs and priorities in their area. The Department of Health provides funding in the region of €28 million per annum in supporting task forces through various channels including the HSE.

The Department of Health through the HSE provided €927,813 to the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force in 2019. From this allocation, the task force provided €212,000 to Cavan Drugs and Alcohol (CDA) Trust. CDA Trust provides a range of valuable services to individuals, families and the wider community affected by drug and alcohol use and misuse in Cavan and Monaghan. CDA Trust also receives funding from the Department of Social Protection to provide a drug rehabilitation community employment scheme. The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force has recommended to the HSE that the funding to CDA for 2020 remains at the 2019 levels.

In 2019, the Department of Health secured additional funding of €1m to implement key actions in the national drugs strategy. From this funding, the Department provided the North Eastern Drug and Alcohol Task Force with an additional €20,000 to support its work, 50% of which is recurring on an annual basis. The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force has advised it intends to review and make a recommendation on the allocation of the additional recurring €10,000 early in 2020.

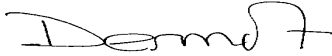
The Department of Health is also providing an additional €190,000 over a three year period for the development of a Young People's Substance Use Support Services in Cavan and Monaghan. This strategic initiative will improve access to health services for young people whose lives are affected by problematic alcohol and substance use in the two counties. The HSE has committed to providing €130,000 recurring funding for youth addiction specialist posts for the Cavan and Monaghan area.

The initiative will further develop and strengthen collaborative working across the counties to support the delivery of integrated holistic services through the continuum of care model; i.e. education and prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation. This initiative was developed jointly by the Drug and Alcohol Task Force and the HSE following consultation with local stakeholders.

Local HSE Services and the North Eastern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force are working proactively with Cavan/Monaghan Drug Awareness Services to ensure drug and alcohol services continue in Cavan and Monaghan.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot' followed by a stylized flourish.

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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