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Deputy Donnelly
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PQ ref 30510/19

To ask the Minister for Health the targeted outreach programmes and campaigns delivered to at risk groups.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

Gay, bi sexual and other men who have sex with men are disproportionately affected by HIV and STIs. Outreach and campaigns for this group that are being delivered and supported by the HSE Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) in partnership with community organisations include:

- Coordinating and supporting the signing of the HIV Fast Tracks cities for Ireland, to support developments such as community-based HIV testing as well as public campaigns on HIV stigma reduction and promotion of the new PrEP programme later this year.
- Supporting the Gay Health Network with the development and running for the Man2Man website and in the development of new campaigns in response to emerging needs, including the Foreign Bodies: Hep A prevention campaign and ‘Get your bits out for the labs’: A pre-Christmas campaign to promote STI testing Call to action: Get yourself tested
- Funding and supporting the evaluation and development of a pilot MSM community peer-led outreach programme, which provides online and face to face support and advice to MSM regarding sexual health and wellbeing. On foot of a positive evaluation, the SHCPP has been working with HIV Ireland to develop a logic model, programme manual and monitoring and evaluation framework to support the success of the service. https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/gmhs-report_final.pdf
- The MSM outreach service orders condoms and lube from the NCDS for distribution in bars and clubs and social venues.
- Establishment of MSM health committee to maintain a focus on sexual health in MSM on an on-going basis and to coordinate planning and resourcing.



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Young adults are disproportionately affected by STIs and unplanned pregnancy. Outreach and campaigns for this group include:

- The roll out of the Respect Protect campaign, #RespectProtect. The target audience is young adults aged 18-30. The campaign aims to promote condom and contraception use and STI testing.
- Sexual health outreach at festivals, third level colleges and night life venues across the country.
- The National Condom Distribution Service supports condom distribution by students unions in third level institutions across the country.

Yours Sincerely,

Maeve O'Brien

Acting Programme Lead, Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy