



Ceann Seirbhíse, Meabhairshláinte
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Mental Health
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2
Email: cho7.pqreps@hse.ie Tel: (045) 882 597

18th December 2020

Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 37037/20

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

CHO Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow works with the local community to respond to deaths by suspected suicide in Tallaght and other communities within Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow. There have been a number of responses to individual deaths by suspected suicide both in terms of supports to families in the aftermath of suicide and needs at community level. These responses have included:

- Individual support through the Primary Care Psychology service to children bereaved by suicide.
- Support to community members given by Primary Care Psychology.
- Linking in appropriate services to support individual families and the community in the aftermath of suicide.
- Working with agencies, who have contacted the HSE with concerns around family members bereaved by suicide, and ensuring a timely access into appropriate services including Mental Health Services.
- Working with agencies concerned with substance misuse to identify trends in relation to polydrug use and suicide
- Working with agencies to look at the prevalence of self harm and
- Supporting local community initiatives to respond to suicide at a local level through training
- Currently developing a local resource 'Numbers when you need them' for residents in relation to agencies available to support them around the issue of suicide.
- Development of post for a Resilience Worker in South Dublin County Partnership, co-funded by the HSE, TUSLA and South Dublin County Council.

There are three Suicide Resource Officers currently working in the Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow. The primary role of the Resource Officer is to the implement the *Connecting for Life Dublin South* and *Connecting for Life Kildare/West Wicklow strategies*. The Resource Officers also respond to suicides by linking families and individuals into services and where appropriate, developing inter-agency responses to support both families and communities.

The Resource Officer in Dublin South responded to 37 suspected deaths by suicide in 2017, this number reduced to 16 deaths in 2018. The level of response depends on family, individual and community needs and is mindful of family bereavement. The Resource Officer also responds to individuals, when notified by internal and external stakeholders who are deemed high risk of death by suicide, to link them into appropriate services. *(There is a variance between official data on suicide from the CSO and number of suspected deaths by suicide reported to the Resource Officer).

The Resource Officer in Dublin South is also responsible for the co-ordination of a National Training Programme at CHO level. Over 2,000 individuals, working or living in the Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow area, were trained in 2018 through programmes that enhance a community's capacity to respond to suicide and self harm.

The Resource Officer is also linked into, and supports inter-agency structures, concerned with suicide and mental health promotion at local level. The Resource Office also supports mental health promotion and stigma reduction campaigns e.g Green Ribbon Campaign and Little Things campaign at local level.

In 2017 an extensive consultation took place to develop *Connecting for Life Dublin South- Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2018-2020)*. This identified key risks in relation to suicide in the Dublin South area and associated service challenges. In responses to these risks and in line with the national *Connecting for Life* framework, an action plan was developed.. *Connecting for Life Dublin South* was launched in February 2018, and a copy of the strategy can be found at www.connectingforlifedublinsouth.ie

Connecting for Life Dublin South has 7 strategic goals:

1. To improve the understanding of, and attitudes to, suicidal behaviour, mental health and wellbeing within Dublin South.
2. To support local communities' capacity to prevent and respond to suicidal behaviour.
3. To target approaches to reduce suicidal behaviour and improve mental health among priority groups.
4. To enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour.
5. To ensure safe and high-quality services for people vulnerable to suicide.
6. To reduce and restrict access to means of suicidal behaviour.
7. To improve surveillance, evaluation and high quality research relating to suicidal behaviour.

Connecting for Life Dublin South has moved rapidly into implementation stage and there are four workstreams, which will implement actions to achieve the strategic goals named above. They are, Community; Mental Health (Clinical); Education and Training; Communications, Research and Evaluation. Within Dublin South there are five community settings identified for local roll out of *Connecting for Life Dublin South*, including the Tallaght Area.

Agencies supporting Suicide Prevention and Mental Health receiving HSE funding in Dublin South

HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

St John of God's Lucena Clinic Tallaght (CAMHS)

HSE Adult Mental Health Services

HSE Primary Care Psychology

HSE Counselling in Primary Care

HSE National Counselling Service

Village Counselling Service

Pieta House

Beacon of Light Counselling Service

South Dublin County Partnership – Heads Up (Project for Men 'at risk' of suicide) and Resilience Worker Post – West Tallaght

Breaking Through (co-ordinates training across CHO)

Samaritans Ireland

Aware

Suicide or Survive

First Fortnight

Turn2Me Ltd

GROW

I trust this clarifies matters.

Kevin Brady

Mr. Kevin Brady

Head of Service Mental Health Dublin South Kildare West Wicklow