

Deputy David Cullinane
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

7 August 2020

PQ Number: 17848/20

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. The question concerned was referred to Strategic Planning and Transformation, HSE, for review and direct response. Our response to the PQ concerned is set out below.

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the increase in the health and well-being budget since the adoption of Sláintecare; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Response: In May 2017, the cross-party parliamentary committee published the ‘*Houses of the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare report*’. The report, known as Sláintecare, is a ten-year programme to transform our health and social care services. Over the period 2018 – 2020, new service development funding of €16.350m was allocated to Health & Wellbeing as follows;

Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme - €7.850m

- €5.4m to fund the implementation a new national pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV Prevention Programme in sexually transmitted infections (STI) services to reduce the risk of HIV infection to those deemed to be at substantial risk of acquiring HIV.
- €2.0m to fund the implementation of a range of actions arising from the *Oireachtas Committee on the Eight Amendment Ancillary Recommendations*;
 - Promote sexual health and 'safer sex' public advertising campaigns which will encourage sexually active adults to have safer sex, to include contraceptive advice and prevention of STIs
 - Continue to expand the free provision of condoms to at risk groups

- Provide a free counselling and information service to people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy
- Implement sexual health promotion training for professionals in the youth sector, those working with at risk groups, and for parents
- Support the Department of Education and Skills in the delivery of the relationship and sexuality education curriculum by providing training and associated resources
- Repeat the in-depth general population survey on sexual health and crisis pregnancy to provide up-to-date data to support implementation
- €0.450m to fund the implementation of a HIV Fast-track cities initiative to improve the awareness of STI/HIV prevention and testing services; to reduce HIV related stigma and discrimination; to increase the percentage of people living with HIV in Ireland who know their HIV status; and to improve the monitoring of HIV testing in Ireland.

Health Protection Vaccines - €8.5m

- €4.4m to fund the implementation of the national universal HPV vaccination programme for school aged boys and girls.
- €4.1m to fund the expansion of the national primary childhood immunisations programme to include Rotavirus and Meningococcal B vaccinations.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office on 01 6352041 or via email strategicplanning@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin O'Neill

Gavin O'Neill, Assistant National Director
Strategic Planning & Transformation