



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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6th June, 2020

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question 9949/20: The Cavan drug awareness programme which provides invaluable counselling to persons that are trying to tackle drug addiction - To ask the Minister for Health his plans to enhance schemes such as a programme (details supplied)

Dear Deputy Tully,

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 in the region of €28 million per annum to supporting task forces through various channels of funding, 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 North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force recommended €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 provides a range of evidence-based addiction supports and interventions, including crisis interventions, care-planning & key-working, psycho-social supports and therapeutic group work. CDA's counselling service for individuals in recovery has continued through the COVID-19 restrictions, with service users continuing to access remote supports from counsellors through telephone contact. The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force have recommended to the HSE 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 East Drug and Alcohol Task Force with an additional €20,000 to support its work, 50% of which was to be recurring on an annual basis. The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force, in partnership with Tusla, has committed this funding in 2020 to the Irish Society for the Protection of Children from Cruelty for delivery of an addiction counselling young person service in Cavan and Monaghan.

There are four HSE Addiction Counsellors employed to provide services in the Cavan/Monaghan areas. In 2019 the HSE also provided a further €125,869 in grants to other Addiction Voluntary Groups covering the Cavan and Monaghan area.

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 & Monaghan. This strategic initiative will improve access to



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health services for young people whose lives are affected by problematic alcohol and substance use in the two counties. The HSE has committed to provide €130,000 recurring funding for youth addiction specialist posts for the Cavan and Monaghan area. Recruitment of a provider to deliver this service was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions but the process has now recommenced.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot".

Dermot Monaghan,
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