



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

**25th November 2020,
Deputy Kathleen Funchion,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

PQ Number:

35023/20: To ask the Minister for Health the package of measures that will support survivors of mother and baby homes.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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.

The HSE will deliver Counselling Services and a new Patient Advocacy Liaison Support (PALS) as part of the health and well-being support package which will be made available to former residents of mother and baby homes. These services will help to ensure that former residents are supported to access and navigate the health and social care services and that their psychological support needs are prioritised. The services will be provided the HSE National Counselling Service and by HSE Communications (HSELive).

As part of the Government agreed package of health and well-being measures the HSE National Counselling Service offers counselling to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes.

The HSE National Counselling Service has 20 years of experience providing counselling and psychotherapy to a wide range of clients including those who have experienced psychological difficulties due to time spent in institutions.

The NCS is located in all HSE Community Health Areas. Counselling is available face to face, by telephone or online through secure video during office hours to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes who are living in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/national-counselling-service/counselling-service-for-former-residents-of-mother-and-baby-homes/>

Access to the National Counselling Service for former residents may be made by direct self-referral. Written referrals from health care professionals such as GPs are also accepted.

Out of hours Telephone Counselling Support Service is also available from Connect Counselling) a HSE funded organisation which provides telephone counselling and support to adults who have experienced abuse or trauma in childhood. <https://connectcounselling.ie/>



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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, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services