



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

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3rd March 2021

Deputy Neale Richmond
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ
Number: 8248/21

PQ
Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he has considered introducing psychological and mental health supports for family carers to ease their burden; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Neale Richmond

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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.

In January 2021, the HSE published the "HSE Psychosocial Response to Covid-19, a next stage planning document on how to mitigate against the longer term implications and sustainably support the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of the public and healthcare workers. It provides a layered care approach to addressing the psychosocial consequences of Covid-19, from a societal level and through the levels of need of the population across the life span.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/psychosocial-response-group/>

The report's framework, sets out 6 levels of structured psychosocial response, which will enable the HSE to effectively integrate the wide range of wellbeing and mental health supports available across the health sector and those that could be offered.

The HSE Psychosocial Response to Covid-19 report specifically examined the needs of family carers as part of its review of the impact of Covid-19 on specific populations and priority groups. Section 6.2.5 of the document outlines the needs of this group and highlights the results from a national survey from Family Carers Ireland (2020), which examined family carers' experience of caring during Covid-19.

The next phase of the psychosocial response plan, will be to look at the needs of each of the priority populations highlighted in the report and to examine what additional long term responses are needed to address the prolonged effects of Covid and the post emergency term, for these groups.

In recent years there has been an increasing focus in mental health, on working collaboratively with service users, family members and carers. This theme is highlighted in the current national policy: *Sharing the Vision – A*

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mental health Policy for Everybody 2020-2030 and the HSE National Strategy for Service User Involvement in the Health Service 2008- 2013.

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 'T. O'Brien'.

Thomas O'Brien
General Manager Mental Health Services