



Ceann Seirbhíse, Meabhairshláinte  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Milaoise, 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

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh**  
**Dail Eireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare Street**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ 2044/21:** *To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a project (details supplied) aimed at suicide prevention; the supports that can be provided to it to aid in its work; and if he will visit the area and engage directly with the team to ensure its success.*

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh

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.

SPACE (Suicide Prevention and Community Engagement) Ballyfermot was set up following research funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention *Rapid Assessment and Community Response to suicide and suspected suicide in Dublin South*. This research was carried out in response to a high level of death by suspected suicide among young women in Ballyfermot and surrounding areas.

The research has nine recommendations to enhance community response to suicide and initiatives to support vulnerable, young women.

**Recommendation One: Establish Community Response Leadership Team**

SPACE is the community leadership team that has been established to oversee the implementation of the research. This team has membership across the community and statutory sectors. HSE membership includes: HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention; HSE Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force Co-ordinator; HSE Addiction Services and HSE Adult Mental Health Service.

**Recommendation Two: Community Response Co-ordinator**

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention has provided €60k once off funding for a Community Response Co-ordinator. SPACE members are currently drawing up a job description for this role to be advertised shortly. The position will be housed in Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership. The Co-ordinator will be responsible for the implementation of the research recommendations in partnership with the SPACE members and will report into SPACE.

### **Recommendation Three: Critical Incident Protocol**

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention is finalising a Community Response to Suicide Framework that can be adapted for local communities. The Community Response Co-ordinator in partnership with SPACE members will adapt this framework for Ballyfermot.

### **Recommendation Four: Suicide Prevention Training**

Due to current restrictions with Covid, the HSE have moved a number of training courses online. These include:

- START (suicide prevention)
- Suicide bereavement training for professionals
- SAOR (Screening and brief intervention for alcohol and substance misuse)

When face to face training re-commences, the HSE will further provide:

- STORM –Skills Training on Risk Management for suicidality and self-harm
- Suicide Bereavement Training for Communities
- SafeTalk Suicide Prevention Training
- ASIST Suicide Prevention Training

### **Recommendation Five: Development of a Peer Support Network**

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention has provided €5k in funding to replicate the multi award winning Jobstown SafeTalk Project in Ballyfermot. This trains up local people to provide support to members in their community and is advertised on social media. This project was a brainchild of members of Jobstown community after a number of suicides in their area and has had a massive impact on help seeking in the Jobstown area.

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention will be supporting SPACE to develop a social media strategy to get key support messages out to the Ballyfermot community.

### **Recommendations Six: Engagement with Under 18 Services and improved pathways to care for young women**

This area of work has not been looked at yet and will be explored once a Co-ordinator is in post.

### **Recommendation Seven: Support and Access programme for young women**

The HSE Drugs Task Force is currently funding a position to support women to access appropriate treatment in Ballyfermot and Tallaght (SWAAT). The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention has also give €15k for the development of a programme to support young women accessing training programmes and employment programmes.

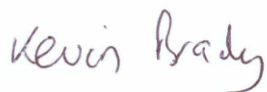
### **Recommendation Eight: Future Research**

SPACE has put in a research proposal to the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention to look at the experiences of substance users in accessing Emergency Departments following self-harm. The research proposal is for €40k.

### **Recommendation Nine: Clinical Self Harm Programme in St James and Tallaght Hospital**

We are in the final stages of recruiting self-harm nurses to St. James's Hospital with a view to commencing the programme in Q2 of 2021. Discussions are ongoing with Tallaght Hospital with a view to creating capacity and develop structures to support the implementation of the programme on site in 2021.

I trust this information may be of assistance to you.



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Mr. Kevin Brady  
Head of Service Mental Health Dublin South Kildare West Wicklow