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Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

22nd March 2021

Re: PQ 13115/21 - 'To ask the Minister for Health the whole-term equivalent staff in County Monaghan employed under the connecting for life strategy; the staff vacancies that exist; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

In Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Service (CMMHS) there is one full time Suicide Resource Officer - 37 hours per week. There are no other posts assigned full time to this strategy and therefore no vacancies in CMMHS. Notwithstanding this various staff from CMMHS have periodically input to the CMMHS Connecting for Life Strategy, including a comprehensive consultation process to develop said strategy, e.g. Principal Psychologist, Area Director of Nursing, Assistant Directors of Nursing, Clinical Nurse Specialist CAMHS.

A suicide bereavement Liaison Officer is employed for 24 hours per week. A counsellor is employed for 16 hours to provide suicide bereavement counselling and a crisis intervention counselling service for people at risk of suicide or self-harm in Cavan and Monaghan. These staff are employed by Pieta House and funded by National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) and are filled for the funded hours.

If you have any further queries on this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Dykes
General Manager
Mental Health Services, CHO1.