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Deputy Holly Cairns
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
29th June 2021

PQ ref: 23345/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to provide accessible information on contraception and family planning including information accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities, persons that are deaf, hard of hearing or non-verbal, persons that are blind or vision impaired and Irish speakers and non-native English speakers.

Deputy Cairns,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is a national policy priority programme in Health and Wellbeing in the Health Service Executive. The SHCPP is tasked with implementing Ireland's first framework for sexual health and wellbeing, the National Sexual Health Strategy (NSHS) 2015 – 2020. Due to COVID-19, the lifetime of this strategy was extended to 2021.

<https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/about/corporate-publications/national-sexual-health-strategy/national-sexual-health-strategy.pdf>.

The SHCPP delivers a wide range initiatives to promote sexual health and wellbeing and help prevent crisis pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for those living in Ireland. This includes the development of education and information resources. In this regard, the SHCPP has developed the following information on contraception:

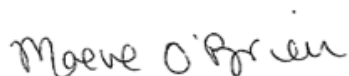
- The SHCPP's website www.sexualwellbeing.ie has a dedicated section on contraception, which provides practical information about contraception methods; emergency contraception; talking about contraception; and fertility facts. The Programme's website includes a text size menu for users who are visually impaired.
- The 'Your Contraceptive Choices' leaflet sets out all of the contraception options available. It is available to order from www.healthpromotion.ie and can be downloaded from <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/contraception/>

This resource is regularly ordered by maternity hospitals, GP surgeries and community organisations and disseminated in these settings. To ensure this information is as accessible as possible from a health literacy perspective, the SHCPP has been working with NALA to develop a shorter version of this leaflet. It is expected that this will be available later in 2021.

For people whose first language is not English, the SHCPP has the following work underway:

- Consulted with community organisations to develop contraception information in different languages. From this agreement was made to translate of the 'Your Contraceptive leaflet' into six languages: Urdu, Portuguese, Polish, Arabic, French and Romanian. The timeline for completing this work was impacted by staff redeployment due to COVID 19; however it is anticipated that these will be available later in 2021.
- Worked with Cairde, a community development organisation working with ethnic minorities, to translate the contraception information on www.sexualwellbeing.ie into five languages and make available on www.Healthconnect.ie app. This is currently live.
- Provides funding to the non-governmental organisation Akidwa to provide information workshops on reproduction and contraception to those living in direct provision. The work is currently being delivered remotely by Akidwa to those living in the centres and will resume face to face once restrictions allow.

Yours Sincerely



Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme