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PQ Ref 56256/21

To ask the Minister for Health the training in place for the community to provide supports to families who are living with loved ones who have suicidal indentations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

The NOSP is involved in a range of education and training initiatives encompassing suicide prevention and mental health promotion, many of which are available to others (family members, carers, colleagues etc) who would like to improve their knowledge and skills across areas such as suicide prevention, self-harm prevention and suicide bereavement. Such initiatives have been identified as key components of work to achieve the vision of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide.

The suite of NOSP-supported evidence-based and evidence-informed suicide prevention gatekeeper training programmes is outlined in the [NOSP National Education and Training Plan 2021-2022](#). This provides a framework and rationale for our approaches to suicide prevention training and for different target groups, be they designated or emergent gatekeepers. Presently, programmes outlined in this plan include: Understanding self-harm; safeTALK; LivingWorks Start; ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training); STORM; and Suicide Postvention/Bereavement Training for both professionals, and for communities.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning
& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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