



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
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Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

22nd September 2021

PQ Number: 41773/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of establishing a National Advocacy Service for mental health services users. – David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

HSE National Mental Health Services are fully committed to ensuring that people using our services have support, when they wish it, and to have their voices heard in respect of the treatment they receive. To this end the current cost of providing a Peer Advocacy Service in mental health is approximately €800,000 per annum. This service is concentrated on inpatient services and is delivered by an External Agency on behalf the HSE. To extend a minimal advocacy to all adult mental health community services as well as the inpatient units, depending on the model, would cost approximately an additional €600,000

In addition the HSE National Mental Health Services provide an advocacy service through an external provider for young people and their families using Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Currently the CAMHS advocacy service is provided in two of our inpatient units at a cost of €80, 000. This cost also covers some community advocacy in CHO 2. To provide a baseline national CAMHS Advocacy service for both inpatient and community would cost approximately €240,000.

Therefore based on the above assessment, the full estimated cost of providing a National Advocacy Service for mental health services users may be in the region of € 1.64 million upwards.

It is important to note that this is a broad estimate and all expanded or new services would be subject to current contract arrangements, procurement rules and the HSE National Financial Regulations.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services