



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
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Deputy Nessa Hourigan,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

29th September 2021

PQ Number: 44283/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will reconsider the requirement on those with lived experience of mental health challenges to work at least 15 hours a week when they wish to co-facilitate HSE recovery workshops; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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.

The HSE is committed to including people with lived mental health experience in the design, delivery and evaluation of our services as set out in our national policy 'Sharing the Vision'. The inclusion of lived experience in the form of service user, family member, carer (SUFMC) and supporter involvement through a co-production approach, provides both a therapeutic and service improvement benefit providing opportunities for current service users to achieve better recovery outcomes.

In 2016 'A Partnership for Change' was published and in 2018 A 'Framework for Recovery in Mental Health' set out a framework for a number of lived experience roles to be developed in the HSE. These roles included establishing the HSE Office of Mental Health Engagement and Recovery, local CHO Engagement structures, peer support services, recovery education and recovery college services. By the end of this year, approximately 120 lived experience roles will be in place in the HSE. Many of these roles offer part time and flexible hours and there is a commitment to continue to expand this lived experience expertise as budgets permit. There are a large number of SUFMC's who also take the opportunity to volunteer with HSE Mental Health services and their value is recognised through training and other personal development opportunities and the reimbursement of expenses in a timely manner.

Currently, there is no legislative framework in place to engage people with lived experience in any other capacity.



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

Yours sincerely,

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

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