



Head of Health & Wellbeing Services
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28th September 2021

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 44449/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has plans to introduce a programme (Medex/Exwell programme) at Waterford Institute of Technology free of charge for those patients who cannot afford the programme but who could significantly benefit from same; if additional supports will be made available to cover these costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is currently working with Carlow, Waterford and Westmeath Sports Partnerships "Physical Activity for People with Chronic Conditions project (PACC)". PACC is initiative is which is funded by the dormant accounts innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund via Sport Ireland and is currently considering a number of pilot projects aimed at the provision of suitable opportunities for people with chronic conditions to participate in physical activity.

Within the HSE, as part of Enhanced Community Care, we are in the process of recruiting additional Health Promotion Officers that will be focused on referring service users with diagnosed chronic conditions to appropriate structured exercise / physical activity programmes within their communities.

We do not have funding to provide Medex/Exwell to participants free of charge that cannot afford the programme within this year's budget but we will be looking at how to reduce the barriers and support access for all to similar programmes as part of the initiatives above.

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

Yours sincerely,

Derval Howley
Head of Health & Wellbeing Services
South East Community Healthcare