



5th October 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 45221/21

To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided to the hidden harm strategy in 2020 and to date in 2021.

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your 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 and TUSLA collaboratively developed and published the Hidden Harm Strategic Statement and the Hidden Harm Practice Guide in January 2019. These publications set out how the HSE and TUSLA intend to bridge the gap between adult and children's services, in favour of a more family-focused approach that considers the needs of dependent children and other family members. An information leaflet was also published in 2019 for staff and other health and social services practitioners working in this area, to help affected children and families.

Work began in 2019 on the development of Hidden Harm eLearning. Again this was a collaborative piece of work by the HSE and TUSLA, with input from the community & voluntary sector. The eLearning programme was completed and launched in September 2019 and is now available on HSELand for HSE, TUSLA, and community & voluntary sector staff.

Following the completion and launch of the eLearning, the development of a one-day skills-based training day to complement the eLearning took place throughout 2020, and has now been completed.

The next steps are to pilot the training, make any adjustments, deliver a Train the Trainer programme and begin to roll out training nationally. The training will be co-facilitated by both the HSE and TUSLA and will be open to HSE, TUSLA and funded agencies.

An allocation of €20,000 for 2020 and 2021 respectively is available for Hidden Harm training. The COVID19 pandemic has delayed the implementation of these next steps, therefore there has not been any expenditure on the delivery of training on a pilot basis or on the delivery of a Train the Trainer



programme as intended. The pilot of the training and the subsequent steps will resume based on public health guidance on classroom-based training.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion