



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Martin Browne,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

21st October 2021

**PQ Number: 46940/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the funding available to persons with lived experience who work alongside HSE personnel in co-facilitating recovery workshops has been reduced since responsibility was given to Mental Health Ireland; if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that only two persons engaged in this work in south County Tipperary were funded; his views on whether the level of funding for persons with lived experience who are involved in co-facilitating recovery workshops is adequate; if he has discussed the matter with Mental Health Ireland; if so, the matters discussed; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Martin Browne**

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Dear Deputy Browne,

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 the development of more recovery oriented services through a partnership approach with service users, family members, carer's and supporters as set out in our national policy: 'Sharing the Vision'. The provision of co-produced recovery education is a key driver of this as outlined in the guidance document 'A Framework for Recovery in Mental Health 2018 - 2021. Each CHO area has a recovery education plan to deliver recovery education. The HSE has partnered with Mental Health Ireland to do this given their expertise in this area and this partnership ensures the delivery of a quality recovery education service. The engagement of people with their own lived experience of mental health challenges to co-produce and co-facilitate is an essential part of recovery education. MHI has 56 staff employed almost all with 'lived experience' on behalf of the HSE to support recovery and recovery education including 34 Recovery Education facilitators who were specifically employed to formalise a specific role to support Peer Educators in the strengthening and building of capacity to provide Recovery Education services across the country. Many of these would have previously worked in a volunteer capacity and these new roles offer opportunity to develop a career pathway using their 'lived experience'. Currently there is no legislative framework in place to engage people with lived experience in any other capacity.



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In 2020, MHI received €1.136 million to support this recovery work and this will increase to €1.284 million by year end in 2021. In CHO 5, there are 11 Recovery Education staff with lived experience employed. The COVID pandemic impacted on the delivery of the face to face element of recovery education but the service was transferred online. This proved to be very successful with 350 sessions delivered in the past 12 months with over 3,000 participants. The face to face element of recovery education is now returning as pandemic restrictions are being lifted and this will include South Tipperary where the two recovery education facilitator roles provide 30 hours weekly of recovery education.

As part of the Implementation of 'Sharing the Vision' it is expected that recovery education programmes will continue to expand in Mental Health services.

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

Yours sincerely,

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