

3rd March 2022

Deputy Colm Burke, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9665/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE provides peer support workers in the mental health services in Cork; if so, if the HSE will provide the number of posts available in Cork, the locations of such posts and the work involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 wish to confirm there are currently two Peer Support Workers employed part-time in Cork Adult Mental Health Services. They are based in South Lee Mental Health Services and West Cork Mental Health Services.

As members of the Multidisciplinary Community Mental Health Teams, Peer Support Workers work with clients of our services to support positive engagement with the service, focusing on the recovery needs of the client. They utilise their lived experience of mental health difficulties, and recovery, as a means of offering hope to those presenting with acute mental health difficulties and provide emotional and practical support to clients of our services. Their interventions validate the client's experience and acknowledge the uniqueness of each person's mental health experience while also pointing to the fact that help is available and there is hope for recovery.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare