



28th June 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
E: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie / CC: pquestions@hse.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the below Parliamentary Questions which were referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

PQ Number: 29469/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the progress in implementing social prescribing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Answer: The HSE is committed to mainstreaming and integrating social prescribing within Community Healthcare Networks across the country as set out in the HSE Social Prescribing Framework launched in July 2021. Implementation of social prescribing within the HSE commenced in 2021. There are now 31 HSE funded social prescribing sites across the country. The first phase of implementation was across 19 sites as part of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. An additional 12 sites were also mainstreamed within the HSE in 2022 – these sites were originally funded via the Department of Health's Slaintecare Integration fund.

The second phase of implementation will see further expansion of social prescribing, dependent on funding.

PQ Number: 29470/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will implement a self-referral system for social prescribing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Answer: Self-referrals are accepted and endorsed in HSE-funded social prescribing services as outlined in the HSE Social Prescribing Framework.

PQ Number: 29471/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will implement a digital solution for social prescribing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Answer: There is a need to provide a digital software platform to enable the collection of output and outcome data for social prescribing which will enhance the consistency and congruence of how information is collated and reported across the HSE-funded social prescribing services. Such a system will facilitate electronic referral, support case management, include a live database of all community options, and track the intervention and community-based options used. Evaluation tools to measure agreed evaluation outcomes and outputs will also be embedded within this software. HSE Health and Wellbeing is committed to procuring this software solution and is working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer in the HSE to advance this currently.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisling Sheehan'.

Dr Aisling Sheehan
National Lead HSE Alcohol and Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes, Health and Wellbeing,
Strategy and Research