



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Roisin Shortall TD.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th July 2022

PQ Number: 34803/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to develop an outpatient national advocacy service for mental health; the estimated cost of establishing an outpatient national advocacy service for mental health; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 developing an advocacy service for its service users that will ensure that service users are empowered to lead in their own care as is their human right and as set out in our national policy 'Sharing the Vision'.

Currently, advocacy services are available in all HSE adult inpatient acute units. This service is provided by 'Peer Advocacy in Mental Health' (formerly known as the Irish Advocacy Network). Additionally YAP provide advocacy in our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in CHO 2 (inpatient & community) and CHO 7 (inpatient). An advocacy service for CAMHS inpatient and community services in Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare is due to be launched in August by Minister Butler. Discussions are currently underway regarding the provision of advocacy services in the inpatient unit, CHO 9. SAGE provides limited advocacy support to some of our older person's services.

Recommendation 65 of Vision for Change, recommends that appropriate advocacy supports should be provided to all mental health services. The HSE as part of its implementation of 'Sharing the Vision' has established a working group to implement this recommendation and it will report in line with the 'Sharing the Vision' timelines.

In answer to your Parliamentary Question, based on consultation with our community partner advocacy providers, we estimate that it would cost approximately €810,000 Euro to provide a basic advocacy service in the community across all CHO areas.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services