



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte
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01st April 2022

Mark Warde, T.D.
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref: 14180/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the Galway Community Café, the free out-of-hours adult mental health service; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Warde,

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;

As part of service reform taking place across Community Healthcare West Mental Health Services our service users, staff and relevant stakeholders identified the need to change the way we provide services to people, especially out-of-hours. This led to the pilot of the Community Café in Galway City which opened in December 2020. Galway Community Café is a free out-of-hours adult mental health service designed and run by people with lived experience of mental health challenges.

The Community Café is an early example of one of the recommendations in Sharing the Vision – the recently published new national mental health policy – being put into practice. It is the first such HSE café in Ireland. The Galway Café was designed and delivered by people with lived experience of mental health distress in a coproduced methodology with the HSE, community partners, and Mental Health Ireland, Mr. Niall O Tuathail, a Galway-based Consultant who works in the NHS, and through the generosity of Mr. Kevin Nugent in allowing the use of the premises for the Café.

The Café provides a safe, non-judgemental place for people to come and have a chat with a trained member of staff. The team have lived experience of using mental health services and can provide peer support or signposting for customers experiencing emotional distress. The Café is an open space which individuals are invited into. Due to Covid-19 guidelines, the service is currently operating on an appointment basis.





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

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Meehan
Head of Mental Health Services
Community Healthcare West



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Níos Fearr | Better Health
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