



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

05th April 2022

PQ Number: 14696/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the supports that are in place per CHO for peer educators in mental health; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Recovery Education is one of the key driver of the HSE Mental Health services approach to delivering a recovery orientated service as set out in our national policy 'Sharing the Vision'. The objective of Recovery Education is to increase opportunities for service users to achieve personal recovery outcomes.

Recovery Education is delivered through a co-production approach between HSE Staff, Service users, family members, NGO partners. The peer educators and peer facilitators delivering peer education are mostly employed by Mental Health Ireland given their expertise in this area and are entitled to all the statutory rights available to any employee. The peer educators receive line management and supervision similar to all other staff and any additional support and training needs are identified and addressed at either a local or national management level whichever is the most appropriate. They also have access to the Employee Assist programme with MHI and the Peer Educators have access to a peer support network among themselves which provides a very import lived experience peer to peer support.

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

Yours sincerely,

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