



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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1st June 2022

Deputy Niamh Smyth,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 25144/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to develop further education for healthcare workers, including general practitioner and practice nurses in the area of breastfeeding.

- Niamh Smyth

Dear Deputy Smyth,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 25144/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE National Healthy Childhood Programme (NHCP) is progressing information, education and capacity-building initiatives towards the objective of increasing the rates and duration of breastfeeding in Ireland. This includes the further development of the HSE's mychild.ie website, information resources for new parents and infant-feeding e-learning modules as part of a suite of breastfeeding education and training resources.

The HSE NHCP is at an advanced stage of development of a National Infant Feeding Education Programme for Health Care Providers caring for mothers and babies. This is a blended learning programme and will make training more widely available to a broader range of front line staff including: midwives, public health nurses, practice nurses, GPs, community medical doctors and other support staff.

The training includes:

- Extensive updating of 2 existing e-Learning units with new evidence and approach and a new additional 3rd e-Learning module.
- Development of self-directed learning materials.
- Classroom-based breastfeeding skills training.
- On-site breastfeeding clinical practice training.

Online training modules will be available to healthcare workers on the HSE's online training platform in July 2022, with skills to practice becoming available on a phased basis from September 2022. The National Healthy Childhood Programme will engage with HSE acute and community services, Higher Education Institutes and professional bodies, including those specific to General Practice and practice nursing on the implementation of the National Infant Feeding Education Training Programme for relevant disciplines. Development costs of these resources is available within current NHCP. Additional indirect costs of staff release to undertake training will vary in line with local service capacity.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations