



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2

8th June 2022

PQ Number: 26686/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of developing a rural mental health model of care; 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.

Irish National mental health policy as reflected in *Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*, has been developed based on a population-planning model, which identifies layers of need. This is addressed by providing: mental health promotion for the general population; self-help resources; people to people supports; primary care and community services; specialist mental health services; and, services for people with complex and enduring needs.

Within this comprehensive framework, supports meeting lower level mental health needs are highly scalable, for example mental health promotion campaigns, online and text-based supports and services such as social prescribing at primary care level. These supports are widely available and targeted at populations across Ireland in both urban and rural settings.

At the level of specialist mental health service delivery, models of care have been developed to respond to clinical need addressing challenging, specialist areas of mental health care, rather than addressing wide population groupings. Specific examples include the areas of eating disorders, psychosis, perinatal mental health and self-harm (including suicide related ideation).

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

Yours sincerely,



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