



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí
Meabhairshláinte Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
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Head of Operations, Mental Health
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Deputy Martin Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd November 2022

PQ Number: 54282/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if a mental health support structure is being designed to accompany the location of modular house builds for refugees from the illegal invasion of Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter - James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

People arriving from Ukraine will be affected by their experiences in their home country, on their journey here, and while in Ireland, in different ways. Many will be able to cope relatively well with appropriate practical supports, while others may experience distress and be at risk of developing persisting mental health difficulties.

Any Ukrainians who are experiencing mental health difficulties while residing in Ireland, can access supports in line with normal admission and referral procedures. The range of mental health services delivered by, or on behalf of, the HSE is extensive, and ranges from the promotion of positive mental health and mental health services in primary care, to specialist community and in-patient mental health services. Some of these supports have been tailored and/or translated with the needs of arriving Ukrainians in mind and will complement the general suite of mental health services. These include mental health information in Ukrainian and Russian, peer supports and more formalised person-centred services delivered by the HSE and funded partner organisations, including MyMind, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Aware, SpunOut and others. MyMind have recruited Ukrainian-speaking therapists and is currently accepting Ukrainians for counselling and psychotherapy in English and a range other of languages free of charge.

Within each Community Health Organisation (CHO), significant work has also been undertaken to plan and deliver an area based psycho-social response, based on presenting needs



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The HSE is completing the design of a model for migrant health services in the context of the ongoing emergency response to the war in Ukraine and increasing arrivals of both populations to Ireland. This model will incorporate information on pathways to specialist mental health services and will also outline the resource requirements for a local and regional psychosocial response service. This service will be in addition to existing services, largely delivered from within core psychology resources. This service delivery model will address anticipated need from 2023 – 2024 and will build on the initial psychosocial response. The full delivery of this model is funding dependant.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Derek Chambers
General Manager (Policy Implementation)
National Mental Health Operations