



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Teil: 061 461435/061 461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
St. Joseph's Health Campus
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313

Minister Jackie Cahill
Parnell Street
Thurles
Co Tipperary

17th November 2022

Dear Minister Cahill,

Re: PQ REF 55975/22: To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE can provide suicide prevention awareness training to specific voluntary groups or within the community; if he will provide contact details of the person or division in the HSE will provide such training in the HSE mid-west region; and if he will make a statement on the matter

The Office for Suicide Prevention operating in the Mid-West provides a suite of evidenced based suicide prevention gatekeeper training programmes. These programmes are available and targeted for professionals and communities working with identified priority groups (as detailed below), under Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2024. Any adult over the age of 18 can access the internationally accredited Livingworks START, safeTALK and ASIST online and face to face workshops, along with training programmes in self-harm and suicide bereavement, postvention. Programmes can be accessed here <https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmw>

Connecting for Life 2020-2022 (extended to 2024), a strategic plan to reduce the amount of lives lost to suicide in Ireland, identifies a number of priority groups which may be at increased risk/vulnerable to suicide. Community organisations and statutory bodies who support and work with members of these priority groups are actively encouraged to attend and are prioritised in the allocation of training and workshop spaces to suit their needs. This includes representatives attending general training as well as organisation wide training being specifically delivered to an individual organisation

Priority groups include:

- **Health/mental health related groups:** People with mental health problems of all ages, those who have engaged in repeated acts of self-harm, people with alcohol and drug problems and people with chronic physical health conditions.
- **Minority groups:** Members of the LGBT community, members of the Traveller community, people who are homeless, people who come in contact with the criminal justice system (e.g. prisoners), people who have experienced domestic, clerical, institutional, sexual or physical abuse, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and sex workers.
- **Demographic cohorts:** Middle aged men and women, young people and economically disadvantaged people.
- **Suicide related:** People bereaved by suicide.
- **Occupational groups:** Healthcare professionals, professionals working in isolation, e.g. veterinarians, farmers.

In addition to 2 Resource Officers who oversee the implementation of the Connecting for Life plan, the Mid-West region is one of 2 regions nationwide with a dedicated Training and Development Officer who coordinates the delivery of training throughout Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary. Contact details below:

Edel Geraghty
Training and Development Officer
Office for Suicide Prevention,
HSE Mid-West Mental Health Services,
Floor 1, Room 20,
Roselawn House,
University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Limerick.
V94 6K65
061 492093/0868094894
<https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmw>

Yours Sincerely



Nuala Kelly
Head of Mental Health Services
Mid-West Community Healthcare