



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Catherine Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

04th October 2022

PQ Number: 47873/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the supports and or choices that are available to parents that deem themselves in a position that they cannot provide appropriate care for their children; if the HSE has care services available for the adult and child (details supplied) - Catherine Murphy

Details Supplied: Services for parents / guardians that find they may pose an immediate or potential danger to the mortality and or well-being of an infant / child and or minor

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

If a parent believes that they cannot provide appropriate care for their children they can self-refer or be referred by any other concerned person to '[TUSLA](#)' the child and family agency.

TUSLA is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. Offering care and protection for children in circumstances where their parents have not been able to, or are unlikely to, provide the care that a child needs. Further to assessment TUSLA delivers supports to children and families and provides services for the psychological welfare of children and their families.

For parents who are experiencing mental health difficulties they can present to their GP who can arrange a referral for either community or in patient mental health care as appropriate. Both community and hospital teams are multidisciplinary' made up of a range of professions including: medical, nursing, social work and occupational therapy, and can assess the parent's current difficulties and help them create a care plan to meet these. HSE staff will also liaise with TUSLA staff appropriately to ensure the welfare of children.



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HSE mental health services currently fund [ParentsPlus](#) to provide evidence based, practical parenting courses and mental health programmes to improve the well-being of children and families. There are eight different programmes for parents and young people, usually run over 6-12 weeks by trained professionals.

Postnatal Depression:

While the HSE support mothers living with postnatal depression through both acute and community mental health teams we also signpost to other community based organisations such as:

- Postnatal Depression Ireland: Phone 021 492 2083 or visit www.pnd.ie
- Samaritans 24hr listening service: Phone 116 123 or visit www.samaritans.org
- Parentline: Phone 01 873 3500 or visit www.parentline.ie
- Cuidiú-Irish Childbirth Trust: Phone 01 872 4501 or visit www.cuidiu-ict.ie
- Aware: Phone 1800 80 48 48 or visit www.aware.ie
- Grow: Phone 0818 474 474 or visit www.grow.ie

Further information is available at: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/postnatal-depression/getting-help/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services