



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

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13th September 2022

Deputy Joe McHugh
7 Grier House
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Letterkenny
Co. Donegal

Re: PQ 43964 / 22 “To ask the Minister for Health the level of service provision that is in place for psychological intervention dealing with trauma for Ukrainian citizens living in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy McHugh

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 Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter, and the following outlines the position.

There are a number of HSE services and HSE funded services in the community who can provide a range of trauma services to Ukrainians and to other refugees and displaced peoples in County Donegal. Within the HSE, these services include the Donegal Mental Health Services (CAMHS, Community Mental Health Teams and Mental Health of Later Life Team); Primary Care Child and Adult Psychology Services; The National Counselling Service; The Counselling in Primary Care Service; and The Donegal Bereavement Service. People can be referred to the service that might best suit their individual presentation.

A number of HSE Child and Adult Psychologists have been facilitated to attend specific training to upskill in the provision of trauma specific interventions to this population, when this is indicated and as referrals are received. Two sessions have recently been facilitated over webinar for those working in the community with Ukrainians and Refugees. The purpose of these sessions was to help those on the ground to understand what trauma is; when distress is considered a normal response to traumatic events and when a trauma response requires a clinical intervention; how to use a psychological first aid informed approach to respond to people at a community level; as well as when to guide people towards services for clinical intervention.

In addition, funding has been sought from National HSE to enhance the local service with Peer Support Workers and/or Psychology Assistants to provide lower threshold interventions in the community, as well as additional 0.5WTE Psychologist to be able to undertake mental health assessments. A post is also being progressed to appoint a Psychosocial Lead for CHO1, who would coordinate the response from the HSE across the region.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle
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