



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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09/05/2023

Deputy Patricia Ryan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 19641/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the investment that has been delivered in perinatal health care in CHO7; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Deputy Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm Dublin South City and Dublin West Central Primary Care Psychologists work alongside the Psychologist in the Coombe Hospital and run support groups for young mothers at risk of post-natal depression. Due to staffing levels these support groups have stopped at present. However the Primary Care Psychology service prioritise referrals for mothers at risk and those who are deemed to have post-natal depression. Dublin South West and Kildare and West Wicklow areas are currently working on recruitment and hope to have a similar programme in place by quarter 4 of 2023.

Public Health Nurses are trained and are provided with training modules in relation to post-natal depression and the required standardised assessments and referral pathways. This aids the Primary Care Service identify signs of post-natal depression in mothers and sign post them to services.

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

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Farrelly

**Interim Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare**