



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
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29th September 2023

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 37725/23 - A full update from the HSE is sought in respect of all of the health related recommendations made in the Drogheda Implementation Plan which have been completed to date or if yet to be completed – Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Mr. O'Dowd,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your representation has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Project	HSE initiatives
Action 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 & 3.9 - HSE Service Provision in North East Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The HSE has funded an additional two (2) Outreach workers who provide Needle exchange services, harm reduction, safer injecting practices, drug & alcohol diaries, education/information, treatment supports, referral onwards, key working and interagency planning.➤ The HSE have secured a supply of Naloxone and all frontline staff are trained up in same.➤ The HSE are planning to start training up the S39 frontline staff in the coming months.➤ The HSE has also secured additional funding for a Senior Outreach Worker to co-ordinate services across the Louth/Meath area.➤ The HSE has developed a new specialised Addiction Homeless services to include an Addiction Homeless Social Care Lead and a Social Care Worker. This team will work with the most vulnerable in society, will provide treatment and support to those who are in addiction and are homeless or are at risk of losing their home due to their addiction. Homelessness includes those in emergency accommodation/couch surfing/living in hostels/street living etc.➤ Funding has been secured for an additional Nurse to support the Addiction Homeless team for the Louth



	<p>Meath area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The HSE have secured an additional €50,000 funding for a DRIVE Lead (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) for the North East Area. The person in post will be required to ensure that the primary focus will be on the co-ordination and implementation of DRIVE and to build the capacity of communities to respond to DRIV (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence). To support this post and to ensure awareness of the DRIVE project, information session on the DRIVE initiative as part of a National DRIVE Roadshow continue to be held across each area with a wide range of community, voluntary & statutory sectors represented.➤ Addiction funding was secured for a Grade IV Clerical officer to support the development of the teams in the Louth/Meath area and is in post since Q1 2023.➤ Funding has been secured for an additional nine (9) beds in Smarmore Castle Residential unit as well as having access to additional beds Nationally.➤ Two additional Community GP's have been secured to provide Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) in Louth.➤ Funding has been secured to provide support to the OST teams in Louth/Meath by way of a Multi-task attendant. This post will be in place by Q4 2023.➤ Interagency meeting held in May 2023 where S39 services presented to the HSE Addiction service staff on their service provision, which is being reciprocated in October 2023. This will support and encourage an interagency approach for those attending both services.➤ The HSE also secured funding for an additional Grade VI post for CHO8 and this post is in place since Q1 2023.➤ Additional funding was allocated to provide Family support services. A Family Support Co-ordinator and a Family Support Worker are in place across the Louth Meath area and work in collaboration with other funded services across the area.➤ The HSE has also secured additional funding for a SAOR Co-ordinator for CHO8. SAOR is a screening and brief intervention model which uses a person-centred approach based on Motivational Interviewing to have a conversation with a person about their drug or alcohol use and to refer those presenting with more complex needs to specialist services. SAOR can be the first step in the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework (2010).➤ Funding has been secured for an Addiction Clinical Midwifery Specialist for CHO8. The midwifery services
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	<p>across CHO8 are in the process of developing the specifications with the post expected to be advertised by the end of Q3 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding has been secured under the Cocaine Initiative to develop support services to include 1-2-1 treatment, group therapy/workshops and training across the CHO8 area. ➤ Funding was secured for an Acting Director of Nursing in Addiction. This post will be place in Q4 2023 working across CHO8. ➤ The National Drug Rehabilitation Framework (NDRF) eLearning module has been completed and is available on HSELand for HSE, HSE-funded services, TUSLA, Probation, Homeless services, volunteers and students. ➤ The HSE have developed a Clinical Quality and Safety Committee (CQSC) for Addiction Services which is chaired by the Clinical Lead for CHO8. ➤ The HSE has recently provided €10,000 to support the development of Dual Diagnosis training for the NE area. The HSE are working with the NATP (National Addiction Training Programme) to look at developing a Dual Diagnosis workshop/training programme to support the community, voluntary and statutory services for this area in Q1 2023 & Q1 2024. ➤ Establishment of a Safe Disposal Drug Related Waste and Litter Group - An interagency collaborative initiative around safe disposal of drug related waste and litter has been established across the Louth/Meath area supported by both the HSE & NERDATF. The Group's work includes training of staff across the groups as well as developing a protocol for the safe clean up and disposal of discarded drug paraphernalia. ➤ The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) commissioned an external review of S39 funded services across the Louth Meath area, which was completed in Q4 2022. The NERDATF started working through these recommendations in Q1 2023 and this will continue throughout 2023.
<p>Action 3.1 & 3.2 - The Red Door Project, Louth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HSE is funding the fixed Needle Exchange Mobile Project in the Red Door Project by providing the Needle Exchange paraphernalia as we all covering the yearly costs for their insurance to provide this service. ➤ The HSE is also funding two (2) additional posts in the Red Door Project (1) Social Worker (2) Project worker.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Additional funding of €20,000 has been provided to Red Door via the HSE/NERDATF to support the increase in the cost of living and additional training/services.
Action 3.3. - FASN (Family Addiction Support Network) Louth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Additional funding of €20,000 has been provided to FASN via the HSE/NERDATF to support the increase in the cost of living and additional training/services
TURAS, Louth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Additional funding of €20,000 has been provided to TURAS via the HSE/NERDATF to support the increase in the cost of living and additional training/services.
Additional funding of €445,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The HSE has recently secured additional funding of €445,000 to support the Addiction and Social Inclusion services across CHO8.
Traveller Primary Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Funding has been approved by the HSE to progress a Traveller Primary Healthcare Unit in Drogheda. Meetings have taken place with Traveller women in Drogheda in relation to the establishment of the Project. The HSE is currently in the process of identifying an external agency regarding the employment of the Traveller Primary Healthcare Workers. A community Development worker commenced work on the 4th September last, funded by HSE and employed by Extern, and their role is to support the establishment of the Primary Healthcare Project in Drogheda.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Donal Fitzsimons
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation