



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

2nd July 2024

Deputy Thomas Pringle,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: thomas.pringle@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 28158/24

To ask the Minister for Health to detail what is envisaged at page 38 of the HSE National Service Plan 2024 where it states “a foetal alcohol project will be undertaken using a multi-care health sector approach (primary care, mental health services etc.)”; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is a group of disorders associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. They are caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD is often an invisible disability, yet prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of neurodevelopmental disorder. The prevalence and epidemiology of FASD in Ireland is not known. An estimated 2.8 – 7.4% of the population of Ireland might have FASD, according to a 2017 systematic review.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is making €200,000 available to support an action in the HSE 2024 service plan to deliver a foetal alcohol project using a multi-care health sector approach (primary care, mental health services etc.).

FASD Ireland was established in September 2021 with three core aims, to raise awareness of FASD, to reduce the prevalence of FASD, and to support people living with FASD.

FASD Ireland believe that FASD is a silent epidemic, and most people living with the condition are already known to the HSE Agencies that provide support for one reason or another. Owing to a lack of recognition of the condition, FASD is overlooked and diagnosed as one or more of the more recognised co-morbid conditions instead.



FASD Ireland aim to provide help by working with the Parent or Carer and providing strategies for them to be a more effective external brain for their child; helping to de-escalate and integrate the child back into education or the home setting without further altercation or upset.

FASD Ireland believe the most effective intervention and support for the child or young adult is to work with Parents or Carers.

Minister Rabbitte has met with FASD Ireland and funding is being allocated to this organisation through a service Arrangement with the HSE Mid West area.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

