



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th October 2024

PQ Number: 39830/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to the Exchequer of expanding Discovery Colleges nationwide

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Recovery Education is a key driver of a recovery-oriented service as set out in our national policy 'Sharing the Vision' and is one of the strategic priorities in the Office of Mental Health Engagement and Recovery's (MHOR) strategic plan 2023-2026. Recovery Colleges and Recovery Education Services are HSE funded, mental health community facing, adult education initiative that provides peer-led co-produced and co-facilitated learning opportunities to a range of stakeholders that include persons with lived experience, family members and supporters, health professionals and members of the community. Expansion of this approach to the area of CAMHS through the Discovery College in Roscommon under REGARI Recovery College has expanded this growing contemporary service offering Recovery Education to those between the ages of 15 -18.

The HSE MH operations has in place a recovery education budget of €2.476 since 2023. Additionally funding of 0.24M was secured to support Recovery Education in PFG 2025. Currently there are five Recovery Colleges and two Recovery Education services nationally, with a workforce of sixty two working full and part time delivering the service.

To expand the Discovery College model and provide a sustainable base line Discovery college structure at all RHA, IHA level would require an additional €1.17M (pay & non pay)

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



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Ryan'.

Michael Ryan
General Manager
National Mental Health Services