



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
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Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th October 2024

PQ Number: 39831/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the current spending solely dedicated to mental health supports for the Traveller community annually since 2020. -Cathal Crowe

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.

All HSE mental health services are inclusive of Travellers and through our national strategy 'Sharing The Vision' we are actively seeking to ensure our services are culturally appropriate. Please find current spending solely dedicated to mental health supports for the Traveller community annually since 2020.

Mental Health National office €500k funding:

€200k funded by the Mental Health - The funding for the Traveller Counselling Service will enable 2000 hours of counselling to members of the Travelling Community to be provided nationally either in person, by telephone or online.

€300k funding issued to CHO's from NSP 2023 development funding for initiatives in the CHO's. Of the 300k, the majority was to recurrently fund 7 mental health support workers in the Traveller primary care projects- one per each Traveller Health

NOSP - €334k funding of Exchange house:

The National Traveller Mental Health Service

The NTMHS, funded by the HSE National Office of Suicide Prevention, is a Traveller specific mental health and suicide prevention service. It provides services to Travellers to improve mental health and overall wellbeing and to reduce the likelihood of suicide within the Traveller community. NTMHS deliver mental health supports and suicide prevention by engaging and consulting with Travellers and others to provide education, training, individual support and group work to the community.

NTMHS provide individual mental health support to Travellers across Ireland. Family Support, Social Work, Counselling (both psychotherapy & CBT) are supports available to all members of the Traveller community directly through Exchange House Ireland.

The NTMHS has a national remit to host awareness raising events and campaigns, deliver training and support mental health and suicide prevention partnership developments nationally and locally to the benefit of the Traveller community. Through our partnership, networking and administration



on groups such as the Travellers Together Preventing Suicide, LGBTI Traveller & Roma Group, the National Traveller Mental Health Network, Limerick Traveller Network, NUIG Midlands Community

Development & Wellbeing Programme we support a wide and diverse range of Travellers with day to day challenges affecting their mental health as well as support to address the wider social determinants of health.

The NTMHS team funded through NOSP are comprised of a Service Manager (1), Community Development & Training Coordinator (1), Men's Suicide Prevention Development Worker (1), Mental Health Social Worker (1) and a Family Support Worker (0.4) specialising in Psychotherapy. Alongside the Family Support & Crisis intervention team continuous professional development is paramount to the teams' and services' development. Weekly team meetings, regular guest visitors from aligned services and training providers as well as formal training and qualifications are undertaken and promoted amongst all staff.

The Minister has advised that further funding will be made available for Traveller Mental Health in 2025, however the Letter of Determination has not yet been issued.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony McCusker'.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services