



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: Seirbhísi
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
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Deputy Sorca Clarke.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

10th July 2025

PQ Number: 38571/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the specific and tailored mental health supports available to people living with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, in line with international best practice; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke

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.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a group of disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure and are associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. Alcohol has an adverse effect on the developing brain, and on body organs. There is no safe amount of alcohol use during pregnancy.

There are no dedicated mental health supports for adults in Ireland diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Disability, primary care, paediatric services and mental health, are all involved in the provision of services for children and adults with FASD in Ireland.

Patients with FASD can have mental health issues as any other person in the community. Patients with FASD who present with moderate to severe mental health issues are referred to their local community mental health teams for assessment and treatment and will be managed mainly by General Adult Psychiatrists

The HSE has developed a position paper on the prevention of FASD which outlines 14 key actions for the HSE to be achieved within the next 5 years. This includes the development of a model of care for FASD. This body of work is been led by HSE Health and Wellbeing Strategy & Research.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/alcohol-programme/hseposition-on-prevention-of-fasd.pdf>



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Michelle Butler
General Manager Child and Youth Mental Office
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services