



Ceann na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus Folláine,
ag clúdach Limistéir Shláinte Chomhtháite
Contae Átha Cliath Thuaidh agus Baile Átha
Cliath Thuaidh Cathair & Thiar,
HSE, Urlár 1, Aonad 4 & 5, Foirgneamh
Nexus, Bloc 6A, Páirc Chorpáraideach Bhaile
Bhlainséir, Baile Uí Chúlainn,
Éircód D15 CF9K

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5th June 2025

Mr Barry Heneghan, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 26961/25 *"To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will expand community support services for individuals who are isolated from their community and are suffering from prolonged loneliness; if she will outline the measures the HSE will take to deal with this growing issue in the Dublin Bay North constituency and specifically the Clontarf, Raheny, Killester area; and if she will make a statement on the matter."* **Barry Heneghan TD**

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Social prescribing recognises that health is heavily determined by social factors such as poverty, isolation and loneliness and offers GPs and other health professionals a means of referring people to a range of non-clinical community supports.

These supports can have significant benefits for their overall health and wellbeing. HSE-funded Social Prescribing services are now available in over 40 locations around the country. Over the last two-to-three years, IHA Dublin North County and Dublin North City and West have been funded to deliver Social Prescribing Services in partnership with community and voluntary organisations in the following areas:

- Ballymun
- Finglas and Cabra
- Kilmore and Priorswood
- North East Inner City
- Dublin 15

These services are funded by Healthy Ireland and the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme.

The current services have experienced high levels of demand and waiting lists. Unfortunately, this service is currently not available in the Dublin Bay North Constituency but we will continue to advocate to extend the service to all Community Healthcare Networks within the IHA, including the Clontarf, Raheny and Killester, as intended in the HSE Social Prescribing Framework as part of the annual estimates process.

For individuals who are 60 and over living within the area Alone, the National Charity that supports older persons, deliver a Support Coordination Service in collaboration with the HSE in 11 locations across North Dublin. To make a referral call the National Support & Referral Line 0818 222 024 or to find out more visit the [Alone Website](#).

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen O'Dea

Head of Service Health and Wellbeing

**Covering Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County
and Dublin North City and West**