



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
Baile Átha Cliath 20

☎: 01-620 1666. 01-620 1626

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

10th October, 2016

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 26456/16

* To ask the Minister for Health the action being taken by his Department to ensure that recommendations of the 2015 report on improvements to the direct provision system are implemented in respect of those falling under the remit of the HSE; the reason the progress report at part 5.100 lists the recommendation as being implemented by the HSE despite the absence of new protocols and enhanced services; the engagement the HSE has on this; if there has been a follow-up on this; the action that will be taken to ensure new protocols and enhanced services are actually developed; the timeframe for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

The HSE continues to implement the recommendations contained in the report on improving the Direct Provision system within the context of available resources. Regular liaison takes place with officials of the Department of Justice and other relevant partners in this regard.

In terms of Recommendation 5.100, I can advise the following:

The review has completed the following components: all 16 crisis pregnancy counselling services have been asked to develop a protocol within their own organisation on supporting asylum seeking women through a crisis pregnancy; the Reception and Integration Agency which manages the Direct Provision system in the Department of Justice has partaken in discussion with the HSE with regards to elements of the protocol which require liaison with that Department; the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme held a workshop for its funded Crisis Pregnancy Counselling services on the issue of 'Asylum seeking women and a crisis pregnancy' in June last; the workshop addressed the issue of crisis pregnancy in the context of a woman who is seeking asylum and living within the Direct Provision system; and issues such as

documentation requirements and the process around travelling outside of the country have been explored.

All 16 crisis pregnancy counselling services have been asked to develop a protocol within their own organisation on supporting Asylum seeking women through a crisis pregnancy.

Some elements of the protocol in relation to liaison with the Department of Justice on relevant travel documentation require further discussion between HSE and Department of Justice. Those who face a crisis pregnancy whilst living in direct provision need to be aware of the HSE funded crisis pregnancy services which are available free of charge. Work on the establishment of agreed dissemination of information continues with the Reception and Integration Agency and the HSE in order to ensure the awareness of such services are communicated to those living in direct provision.

HSE funded Crisis Pregnancy Counselling is available free of charge in over 40 locations nationwide contact details can be found on www.positiveoptions.ie or Freetext LIST to 50444”

I hope this information is useful; if you would like further detail around this area of work, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Diane Nurse
National Lead: Social Inclusion

