



1st December 2025

Claire Kerrane, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 63675/25

To ask the Minister for Health if, given the success of the GENIO SASTA Pilot Project it will be made permanent; if funding will be provided in health for homeless initiatives; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2023, the Department of Health (DoH) made a successful business case to the Women's Health Fund for the Traveller Women Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness Programme. Genio Trust was commissioned to lead this work over an 18 month period, from January 2024 to June 2025.

The aim of the programme was to improve healthcare services for Traveller women who are experiencing, or who may be at risk of homelessness. It also sought to develop a national model of culturally appropriate supports that could guide future work in this area.

A call for proposals was issued to the former Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) inviting them to develop 18-month implementation plans in partnership with Traveller communities and local services. Three projects were selected to support the development of a national model.

The SASTA Pilot Project in the former CHO West was funded as a once-off project. The report's recommendations and learning from this work will contribute to homeless policy development, particularly in trauma-informed practice, cultural competency, and improving access to healthcare for Traveller women facing housing instability, reflecting the wider understanding that housing is a key social determinant of health.

For the Deputy's information, a commitment has been made in Budget 2026 to provide €1.53 million for the expansion of health services for people experiencing homelessness, including national in-reach care and case management for those in emergency accommodation, and targeted interventions for women at risk of/or experiencing homelessness. In addition, several other key



initiatives will benefit people experiencing homelessness, including enhanced capacity in drug services for under-served populations, expanded residential treatment, and early intervention supports for young people.

Alongside services provided and funded under Social Inclusion in the HSE, other areas of healthcare provide services in relation to homeless supports including Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, Mental Health, Primary Care Services and GPs providing front line services and attributed budgets are not available.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion