PRESS RELEASE

Following the publication of the [Stronger Together – HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022-2027](https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/mental-health-and-wellbeing/hse-mental-health-promotion-plan.pdf) the Department of Public Health South is providing funding in support of projects across Cork and Kerry that promote awareness about mental health.

The **Cork/Kerry Mental Health Awareness Project Grants** will be awarded by the HSE Department of Public Health in collaboration with Cork Kerry Community Healthcare - Mental Health Services, Suicide Prevention, Social Inclusion and the Health Promotion & Improvement Department. The grants will support projects that address mental health promotion across Cork and Kerry with a focus on the following specific groups;

* Mental health promotion specific to infancy, childhood and young people (0-25 yrs.)
* Mental health promotion specific to the working age population and older people
* Mental health promotion specific to socially excluded groups
* Mental health promotion specific to the community

**Dr. Anne Sheahan, the Area Director of Public Health (Cork & Kerry**) is making this once-off funding allocation available to Community and Voluntary agencies that currently hold a Grant Aid agreement with the HSE. Commenting on Stronger Together, Dr Sheahan said *“the plan recognises the significant importance of collaboration and partnership work in promoting mental health for our staff, communities and service users. It provides a clear roadmap that is evidence-based and addresses the needs of specific population groups. The Department of Public Health recognises the role that community and voluntary agencies play in promoting awareness, education and supports within communities across Cork and Kerry. We are keen to support these efforts through this once-off funding opportunity to further promote a life-course approach to mental health.”*

According to **Daniel Flynn - Area Principal Psychology Manager, Cork Kerry Mental Health Services:**

*“Mental health is something that we all need to become more aware of, looking after it like we would our physical health. I am delighted to see the Department of Public Health support community agencies in Cork and Kerry in promoting mental health awareness and fostering improvement initiatives across the lifespan.”*

According to **Teresa McElhinney – Senior Health Promotion Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare:**

*“Promoting mental health benefits overall health throughout the life stages, but effective mental health promotion requires innovation and targeted approaches. This funding will enable community and voluntary organisations to offer additional relevant supports to those that use their services”.*

According to **Martin Ryan – HSE Lead in** [**Connecting for Life Cork Strategy for Suicide Prevention in Cork City and County**](http://www.connectingforlifecork.ie/)**, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare:**

*“The importance in collaboration underpins the very nature of good practice. Stronger Together and Connecting for Life sit very well together with regard to working in partnership to establish the best possible outcomes for the general public.”*

Community and voluntary groups are encouraged to submit project proposals. The closing date for receipt of applications for the **Cork/Kerry Mental Health Awareness Project Grant** is 30th September 2022 for projects that can be progressed in 2022.

Detailed information and application forms for the **Cork/Kerry Mental Health Awareness Project Grant** are available from the Department of Public Health HSE South (Cork & Kerry) via the following link: