



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Colm Burke.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th February 2024

PQ Number: 49869/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will set aside funding for the provision of an independent advocacy service for children and adults dealing with mental health difficulties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

The HSE is committed to developing an Advocacy service for its service users that will ensure that service users are empowered to lead in their own care as is their human right and is set out in our national policy '*Sharing the Vision*'.

Currently advocacy services are available in all our adult inpatient acute units provided by 'Peer Advocacy in Mental Health' (formerly known as the Irish Advocacy Network). Additionally, Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP) provide advocacy in our CAMHS services, in CHO 2 (inpatient & community) CHO 7 (inpatient) and in Cork/Kerry (inpatient and community services from January 2023). Advocacy has just commenced in the CHO 9 inpatient unit which is also provided by YAP. Discussions are underway to further expand Advocacy services to CAMHS Community services in 2023 and beyond. Furthermore SAGE provide limited advocacy support to some of our older person's services. The HSE fully fund the provision of the listed advocacy services.

Recommendation 65 of our national policy '*Sharing the Vision*', recommends that appropriate advocacy supports should be provided to all mental health services. The HSE as part of its implementation of '*Sharing the Vision*' has established a working group to implement this recommendation and it will report in line with the '*Sharing the Vision*' timelines on the establishment of appropriate advocacy supports for all service users using our services. As part of this work a gap analysis of Advocacy Supports has been conducted and a final report is being drafted.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible script.

Michael Ryan
General Manager National Office of Mental Health Engagement and Recovery