



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile
Phámar,

Office of the
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Deputy Colm Burke,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

7th February 2024

PQ Number: 49876/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to take the necessary steps to ensure that the individual placement and support service is equally accessible for people with mental health difficulties throughout the State; 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.

Employment is a key indicator of Recovery for people experiencing Mental Health Challenges. IPS is an evidenced based approach to help people experiencing mental health challenges to secure employment. The importance of a sustainable delivery of IPS within our services is recognised by its inclusion as a recommendation in our national MH policy 'sharing the Vision'. Sharing the Vision recommendation 71 states; *'A sustainable funding stream should be developed to ensure agencies can work effectively together to get the best outcomes for the individual using the individualised placement support model, which is an evidenced based effective method of supporting people with complex mental health difficulties to achieve sustainable, competitive employment where they choose to do so.* Recommendation 71 is a medium term recommendation due for closure in March 2025

In this regard, the HSE has been working for a number of years now to integrate the IPS model into services. IPS was piloted in Irish MH services as part of the Clinical programmes program and the Service Reform Fund. It became a mainstream HSE programme in 2021 in partnership with local employment partners as one of the Mental Health Engagement and Recovery programmes in collaboration with the occupational therapy managers.

Since July 2021, the HSE has provided 60 funded IPS posts across all CHO's through PFG funding. Latest available figures up until Q2 2023 show 223 people have been supported into employment since the inception of the programme and there are currently approximately 600 clients in the programme. IPS is currently works with 200 employers approximately to secure employment for IPS participants.

In line with STV recommendation 71, the HSE is developing a strategic plan for IPS with the aim of providing IPS on all adult MH teams by 2030.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Ryan".

Michael Ryan
General Manager
Mental Health Engagement and Recovery