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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

28th November 2023

PQ48729/23- Deputy Paul Murphy- To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of an open letter to the HSE regarding trans healthcare, to which 20 national and international organisations signed; if he agrees with the points raised in the letter that trans healthcare in Ireland should adhere to human rights principles, align with evidence-based international standards, and include the trans community at all stages (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE is aware of the open letter regarding transgender healthcare, and received a copy and provided a response to authors of the letter.

An outline of the response is provided in the narrative of this reply.

The HSE is aware that some people the Transgender services heretofore have been disjointed with some elements unavailable in Ireland. This is why the HSE is establishing a team – starting with the recruitment of a clinician for an essential new clinical role – to lead the development an updated Model of Care for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

The HSE's aim is to develop the best service possible for the health and social care of this group of patients/service users and their families which takes into account the emerging international evidence. The HSE is committed to building a service based on experience and clinical evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion with the service user at the centre.

The aim is to provide a wide range of services for all people with gender dysphoria, from care locally in the community to more specialised and complex care.

In line with best practice, a Model of Care will be developed in a consultative way engaging with all relevant stakeholders. All Clinical Lead job specifications set out the need for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and call for leadership and engagement qualities. The HSE policy is to include service users/patient representative groups in the development of Models of Care.



This HSE approach is laid out clearly in 'Better Together: the Health Services Patient Engagement Roadmap' which supports the involvement of patients in the design, delivery and evaluation of Healthcare services.

Once the new Clinical Lead for Transgender Services is in post they will be engaging directly with all stakeholders.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer