



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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

23rd February 2024

PQ Number: 1406/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the establishment of a mental health advocacy service for Traveller mental health; the estimated cost of this service: and if he will make a statement on the matter.- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

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.

At present there are no plans to develop a standalone HSE advocacy service for Traveller mental health. However, 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'.

Sharing the Vision recommendation 65 recommends that appropriate advocacy supports should be provided to all mental health services. The current status of the implementation of this recommendation is: The researcher has completed a gap analysis of existing advocacy services and has submitted the final report to the STV Recommendation 65 working group for review. The working group is in the process of developing an Implementation plan, with resourcing requirements based on the gap analysis recommendations, and will submit this to the National Mental Operations and Strategic Planning teams for consideration as outlined in the STV implementation plan and timeline.

Recommendation 61 of the Sharing the Vision Implementation plan highlights HSE mental health services commitment to deliver diverse and culturally competent mental health supports. This includes providing cultural awareness training to all mental health services to take account of the cultural and diverse needs of the whole population including Travellers.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Mc Cusker'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services