



Mark Ward TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

mark.ward@oireachtas.ie

4th April 2024

PQ ref 13040/24

To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the Connecting for Life Implementation Plan 2023-2024; for an update on the status of the seven goals in the plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

The [Connecting for Life Implementation Plan 2023-2024 \(July 2023\)](#) sets out the agreed milestones for each of the 69 actions in Connecting for Life. These milestones – developed in close consultation with action lead agencies – describe the strategic and operational agenda required to drive the implementation of the strategy, and followed previous implementation plans, for the periods 2017 to 2020, and 2020 to 2022.

To effectively track the implementation of the strategy, the HSE NOSP uses a monitoring system to collate quarterly updates from lead agencies assigned to actions in the strategy, on milestones as set out in the Implementation Plans. Issues arising are brought to the attention of members of the [Connecting for Life Cross Sectoral Steering Group](#) (chaired by the Department of Health) for discussion and resolution, if possible. For your information, publicly available summaries of quarterly implementation progress from both statutory lead agencies and NGO (non-governmental organisation) partners are available here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/strategy-implementation/implementation-progress-reports/>.

You might also note that an evaluation of the implementation and outcomes associated with the entire Connecting for Life strategy has now commenced. Recently, a successful evaluation contract (with the Centre for Effective Services) was awarded, and the necessary evaluation governance structures have now been established. This 'overarching evaluation' will take place during 2024 and 2025. Its findings will provide direction for post-Connecting for Life suicide prevention strategy and operations in Ireland. It will: support the identification and prioritisation of objectives for the next phase of work; inform allocation of resources; assist with the implementation of the next phase of work; and refine and strengthen systems for monitoring and measuring progress and outcomes.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning
& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

johnf.meehan@hse.ie