



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

25th October 2024

Deputy Thomas Pringle,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: thomas.pringle@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 40939/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he intends to continue funding an organisation (details supplied) into 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

(Details supplied) FASD Ireland is currently funded by the Department through a Grant Aid Agreement with the HSE Mid-West Disability Services.

HSE Response

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is a group of disorders associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. They are caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD is often an invisible disability, yet prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of neurodevelopmental disorder. The prevalence and epidemiology of FASD in Ireland is not known. An estimated 2.8 – 7.4% of the population of Ireland might have FASD, according to a 2017 systematic review.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) made €200,000 available to support an action in the HSE 2024 service plan to deliver a foetal alcohol project using a multi-care health sector approach.

FASD Ireland, an organisation established in September 2021 with core aims, to raise awareness of FASD, to reduce the prevalence of FASD, and to support people living with FASD are in receipt of €200,000 in 2024 via a grant Aid agreement with the Regional Health Area Mid West.



Estimates Process and Multi Annual Investment


Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for all services including Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi-Disciplinary Posts and Neuro Rehab monies as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

While Budget 2025, published on Tuesday the 1st October 2025, announced a funding allocation of €25.76 billion to the Department of Health and a Disability Services Budget of over €3 billion, the granular detail regarding the allocation of funding for various services will not be known until the Service Plan for 2025 is published.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

