



# Integrated Care, Advancing Nursing Practice – The Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) Service.

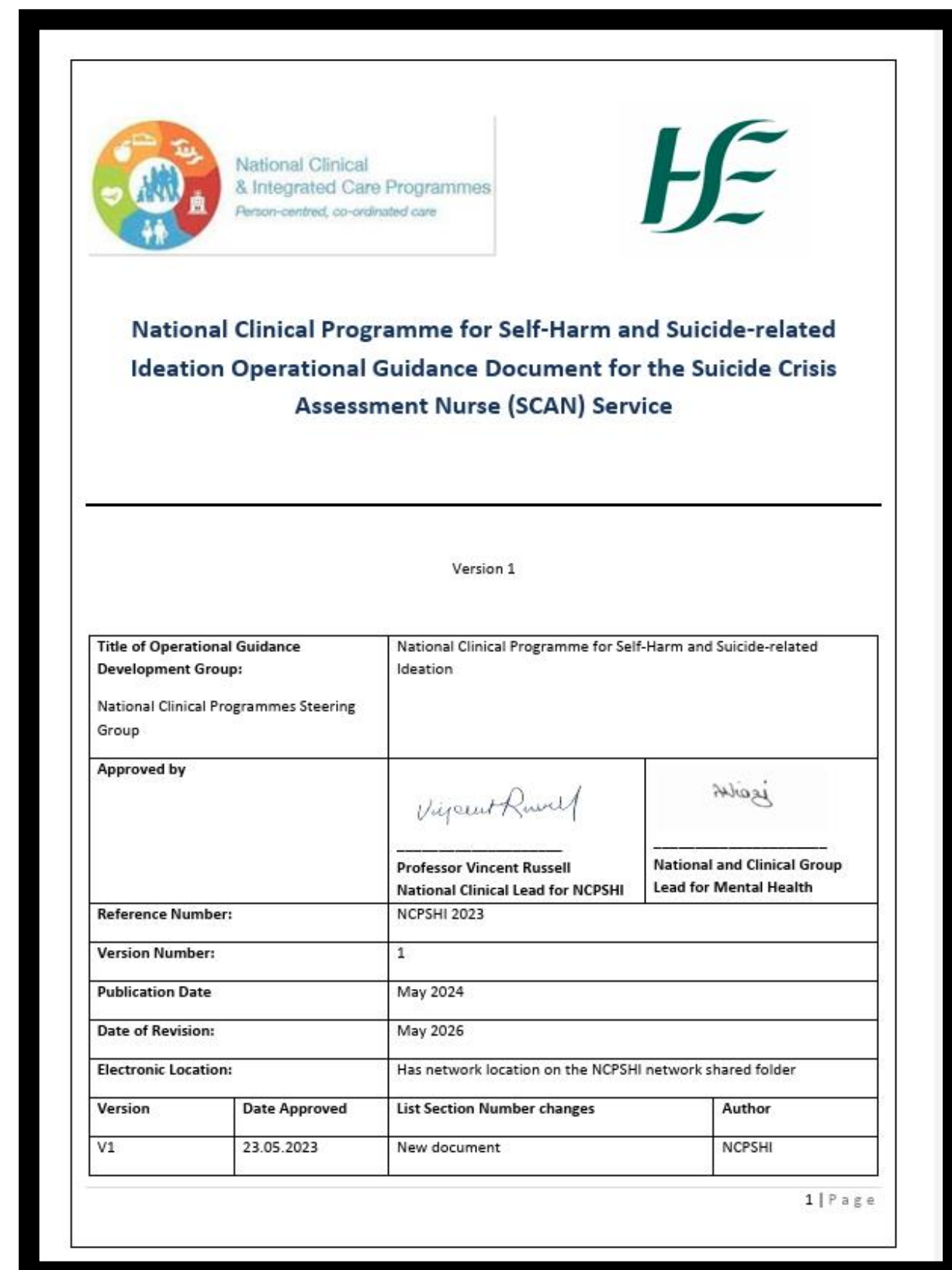
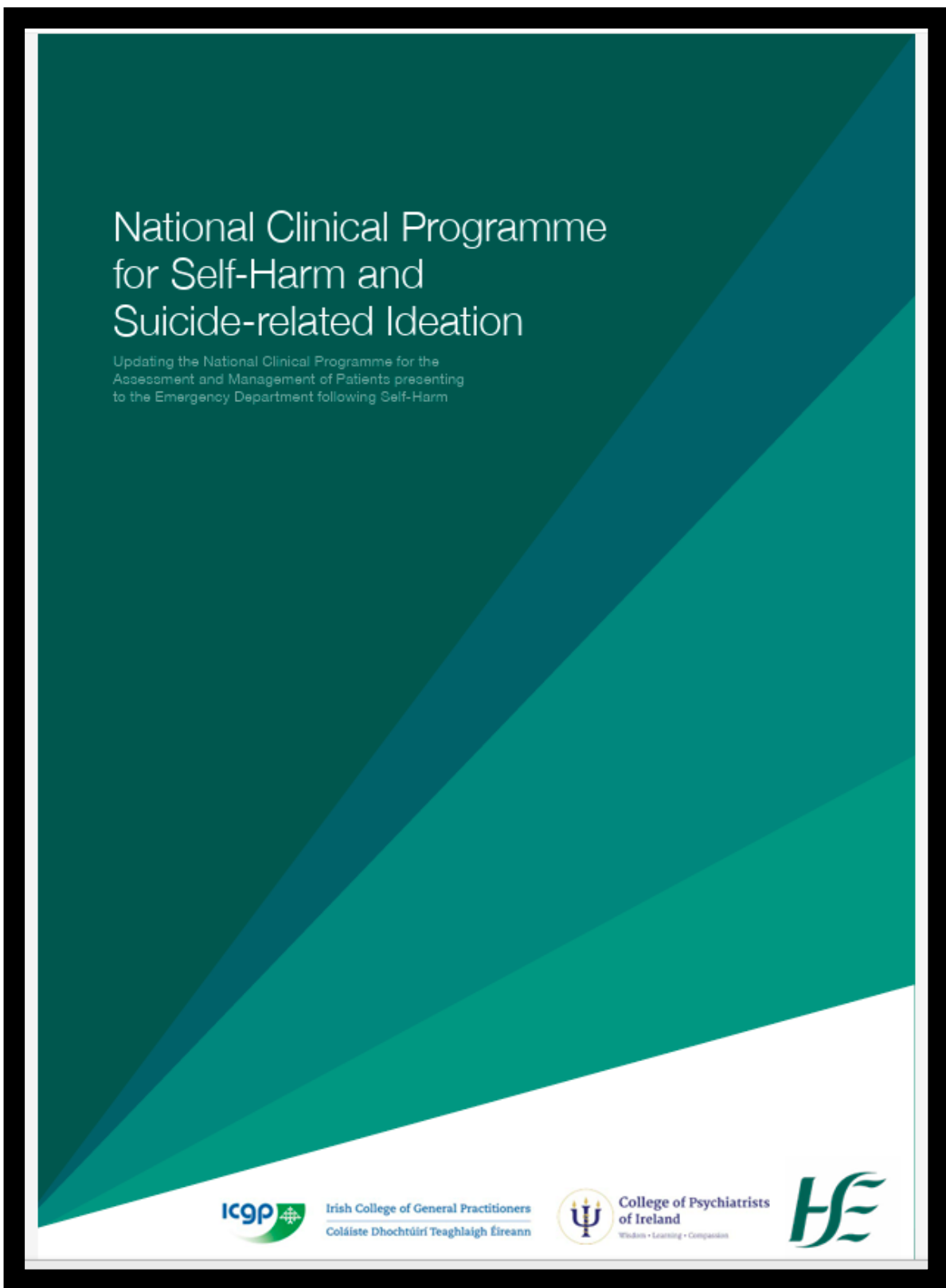


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## INTRODUCTION

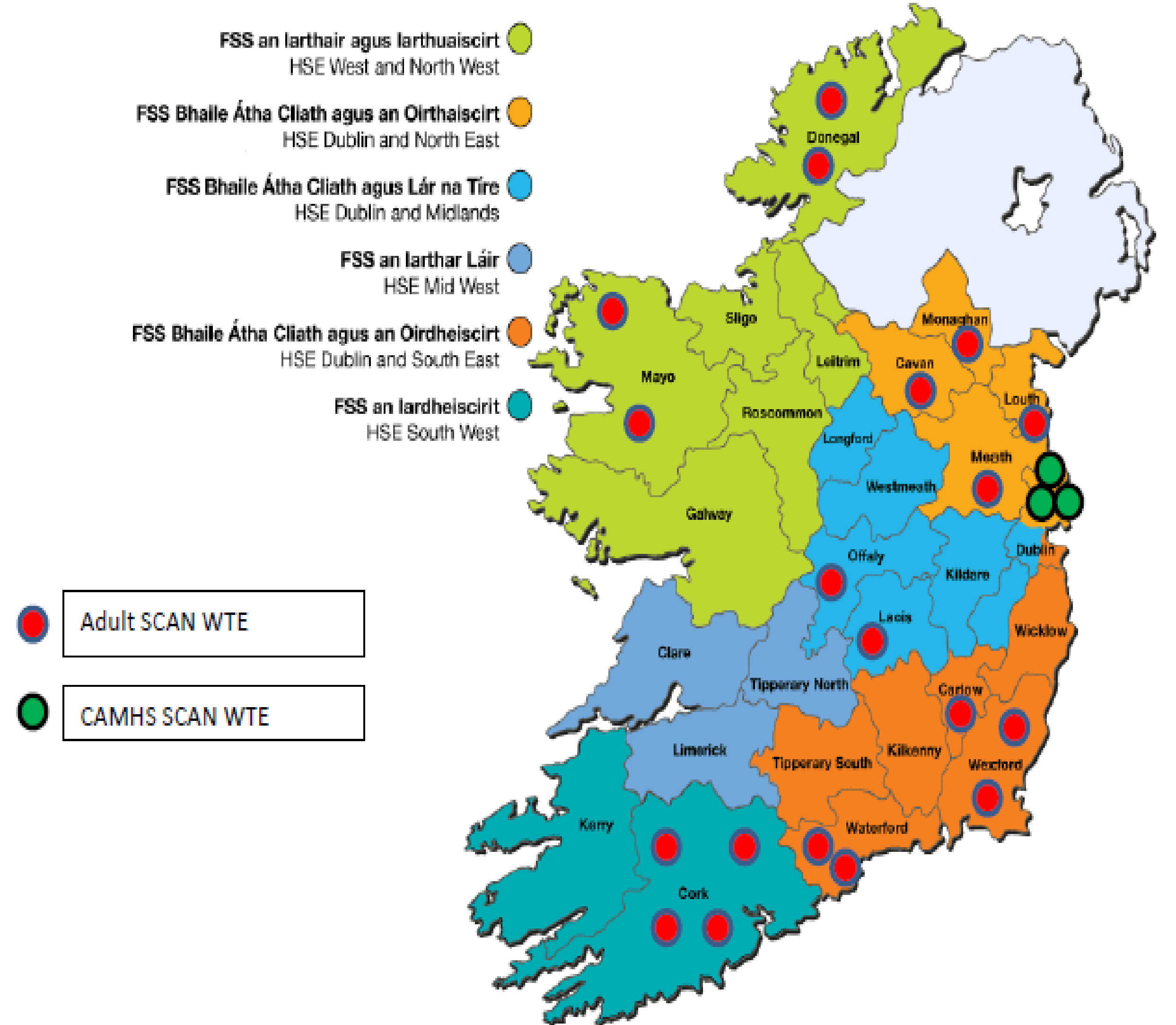
In 2014, a Health Service Executive (HSE) national programme for Self-harm and Suicide-related Ideation (NCPSHI) was launched to standardise care received by people presenting with self-harm or suicidal ideation to the Emergency Department (ED). In 2022, the scope was broadened to include the governance of the Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) Service.<sup>1</sup>

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) employed by mental health services provides assessments of GP patients experiencing suicidal crisis, aligning with Sláintecare; Right Place, Right Time.



## OUTCOMES

### SCAN Service mapped against HSE Health Regions



There are 22 WTE SCAN posts nationally of which 3 are dedicated for CAMHS SCAN. In addition there are a further 4 WTEs (2 Adult and 2 CAMHS currently in recruitment).

Funding from Budget 2025 has proposed an additional 6 posts of which 2 are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of the Irish traveller community.

## AIM

The aim is to highlight SCAN's innovative approach in advancing integrated care for patients presenting in a suicidal crisis in primary care, demonstrating its impact on improving outcomes through a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach between GPs and mental health services.

## CLINICAL COMPONENTS

NCPSHI ensures that people who present following self-harm or with suicide-related ideation received the same care regardless of where they present, based on four clinical components.

### RESPONSE

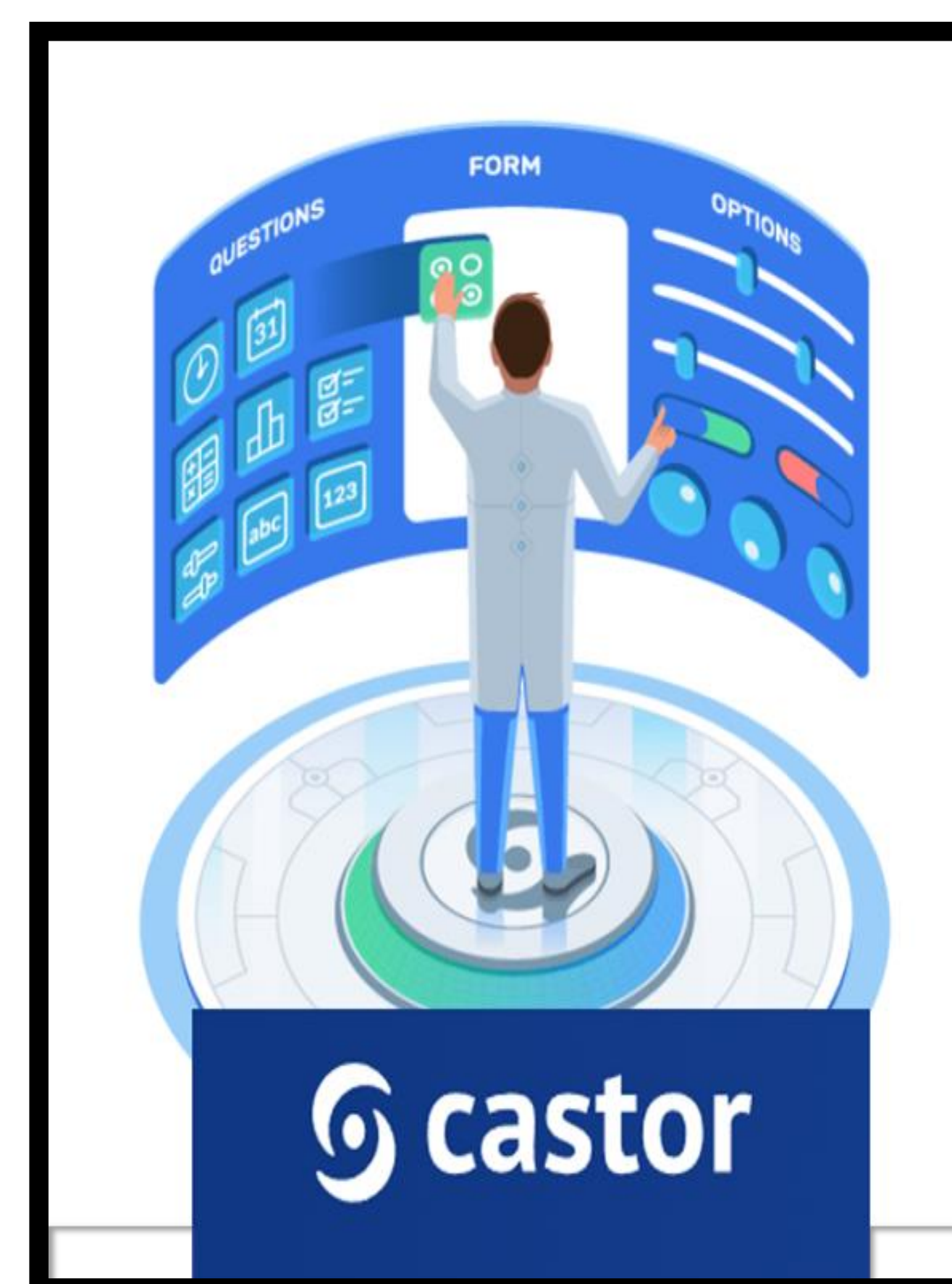
Compassionate  
Validating  
Empathic

Each person will receive a timely expert biopsychosocial  
**ASSESSMENT**  
Expert intervention and a collaborative written safety plan

Every effort is made to ensure  
**FAMILY CARER**  
Involvement at assessment and discharge

Each person receives follow up  
**BRIDGE TO NEXT CARE**

The current challenges in healthcare and the need for an integrated community approach which aligns with HSE Connecting for Life and Sláintecare policies, ensuring a faster prognosis and targeted treatments as patients can be assessed in primary care rather than secondary care or EDs, improving the quality-of-life for those in crisis and diverting care away from busy ED if not required to be there.



A cornerstone of NCPSHI is its data collection system, which plays a pivotal role in evaluating and improving care provided. In January 2025, NCPSHI launched a national Cloud-Based Electronic Data Capture (EDC) Management System, which aims to collect pseudo-anonymised presentation data. The shift to a cloud-based system will significantly enhance clinician data capture workflow and improve data integrity, security and reliability.

## FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is an urgent need for the national implementation and funding support of the SCAN service to ensure equitable access for all patients experiencing a suicidal crisis presenting to general practice and primary care settings.

1. Health Service Executive (2022) National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm and Suicidal-related Ideation; Updating the National Clinical Programmes for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to the Emergency Department following Self-Harm. Dublin, HSE Clinical, Design and Innovation Office.  
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspdc/npcs/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/moc/mhncp-self-harm-model-of-care.pdf>