



14th February, 2023

Deputy Thomas Gould, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref: 6794/23

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has reviewed the 2015 pilot naloxone scheme; and if he will report on same.

Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above representation which you submitted. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The Naloxone Demonstration Project was established by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in 2015 to test the feasibility of making naloxone available for use by opioid users in order to prevent death from overdose under action 40 of the National Drugs Strategy (2009-2016) which aimed to tackle the harm caused by misuse of drugs. Please find below a link to the Evaluation report of the Naloxone Demonstration Project published in 2016
<http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/26037/1/Naloxonedemoproject.pdf>

The Demonstration Project evaluation report contained a recommendation to continue the roll out of the project, funding was secured and HSE National Social Inclusion Office (NSIO) has been progressing the Naloxone Programme since then.

In 2022, the HSE NSIO published a report on 'Naloxone Administration by Addiction and Homeless Service Providers in Ireland: 2018-2020'. This report identified that between 2018 and 2020 naloxone was reportedly administered to 569 people. Of these, 98% survived the overdose and it was estimated that 22 lives were saved by the use of the drug. The report is available through this link https://www.drugs.ie/features/hse_naloxone_drug_insights_report

New resources in relation to overdose awareness and naloxone including two new demonstration videos were developed and are available for viewing on the HSE Social Inclusion Microsite and drugs.ie through the below links

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/addiction/clinical-matters/naloxone/>

<https://www.drugs.ie/resources/naloxone/>



In summary, there has been substantial progress by the HSE and partner services since the 2015 pilot naloxone scheme, the details of which are available in the reports published. The Naloxone Programme has become an important element in the HSE implementation of the harm reduction approach that fundamentally saves lives.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me or Jenny Smyth (Naloxone Project Lead, HSE Addiction Services, National Social Inclusion Office) by email jennifer.smyth2@hse.ie

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eamon Keenan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead – Addiction Services