



03/03/2026

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 7543/26 To ask the Minister for Health the measures she is implementing to coordinate community and therapeutic supports with schools for youth drug prevention, ensuring schools are not overburdened with additional responsibilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

Drug prevention in schools is delivered under the Department of Education and Youth’s Wellbeing Policy and Framework for Practice, which mandates a whole-school approach to promoting wellbeing in schools across the key areas of culture, relationships, curriculum, and policy and planning. To support its implementation, the HSE has co-developed resources for Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in partnership with the Department of Education, the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). In addition, ‘Know the Score’ is an evidence-based substance use prevention education programme which is implemented in Senior Cycle, and was jointly developed between the HSE, the Department of Education, and Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. The HSE and Department of Education and Youth, provide teacher professional learning, reaching approximately 1,000 teachers each year including training on ‘Know the Score’, skills for facilitating SPHE, and new training in mental health and emotional wellbeing education, developed with NEPS and NCCA.

These resources for schools signpost students to a range of support supports delivered by the HSE and its partners. This includes [Navigator, a new digital signposting tool](#) to support the mental health of young people, which was launched in June 2025. Developed in collaboration with Spunout, and co-designed with young people, this innovative tool offers anonymous, immediate and personalised mental health information, and supports. Since its launch, Navigator has seen 17,843 sessions, from 15,795 new users.

The HSE also either directly provides or funds a range of therapeutic services across the country for under-18s who are experiencing difficulties in relation to drug use. The following is a list of the services available for school-going children.

Service Provider Name
Addiction Counsellor for Young People, Sligo
Addiction Response Crumlin (ARC) - Ciall Youth Project

Adolescent Addiction Service, Bridge House, Cherry Orchard.
Adolescent CBDI, Kilkenny
Aislinn Adolescent Treatment Addiction Services, Kilkenny
Arklow Springboard Youth Drugs and Alcohol Diversion Project
Blakestown & Mountview Neighbourhood Youth Project CLG
Blakestown & Mountview Youth Initiative
Blanchardstown Drug Prevention & Education Project Foróige
Clondalkin YDAP - Youth Drug & Alcohol Project
Clonmel CBDI
Community Counselling Service, Gorey
Crinan Youth Project, Dublin
Donnycarney Youth Project, Dublin
Drugs Awareness Programme, Crosscare, Dublin
FDYS Wexford
Halo Project (Under 18s), Kildare
HSE CADS ADAPT Laois
HSE CADS ADAPT Longford
HSE CADS ADAPT Offaly
HSE CADS ADAPT Westmeath
HSE Galway Under 18's only
HSE Mayo Under 18's only
HSE Roscommon Under 18's only
ISPCC Teen-Focus, Louth
Kerry Outreach Adolescent Counsellor
Kerry U18's Drug and Alcohol Service
Kilkenny Rural Drugs Initiative
Matt Talbot Adolescent Service, Cork
Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS)
My Project (Monkstown), Co Dublin
Northwest Alcohol Forum, Donegal
Northwest Alcohol Forum - M-PACT Programme, Donegal
Preparing For Life, Dublin
Prime for life (PFL), Galway
Substance Use Service for Teens (SUST), Louth
Teen Counselling Tallaght, Dublin
The SASSY Team (Gambling/Gaming Service), Dublin
The SASSY team (Specialist Addiction Service Supporting Youth), Dublin
Under 18 Social Care Worker - Laois
Under 18 Social Care Worker - Longford
Under 18 Social Care Worker - Offaly

Under 18 Social Care Worker - Westmeath
Waterford City Frontline Project
Wicklow Child and Family Youth Drugs and Alcohol Project
Youth Drug and Alcohol (YoDA), Dublin
Youth Drug and Alcohol Service East Coast (YoDA E.C.), Dublin

Under Sharing the Vision, Ireland's national mental health policy, work is underway to strengthen the pathways between schools and a range of support services for children and young people. Recommendation 10 under Sharing the Vision is the development of a protocol between the Department of Education and the HSE on the liaison process between primary / post-primary schools, mental health services, and supports such as NEPS, general practitioners (GPs), primary care services, and specialist mental health services. This protocol has been drafted and will be operationalised alongside the Single Point of Access (SPoA) model currently being rolled out by the HSE's Child and Youth Mental Health Office. The Single Point of Access (SPoA) model is a key commitment in the 3 year Action Plan published by the HSE's Child and Youth Mental Health Office in February 2025. This will involve a single integrated pathway to mental health services and a streamlined referrals process, so that young people and their parents will have access to support and services when they need it. Once the SPoA model is finalised, the protocol will be agreed and implemented.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Sheehan

National Lead HSE Alcohol and Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes, Health and Wellbeing