



Ref: NO692

18 December 2018

Ms Edwina Leonard
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Dear Ms Leonard

I wish to thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the provision of additional funding for Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Drug and Alcohol Task Forces play a key role in assessing the extent and nature of substance misuse in their areas, and in supporting community responses, as part of a coordinated approach involving all sectors at local and regional levels.

The 'Drugs Initiative' allocation of €6.987 million in the Department of Health's Vote for 2018 and 2019 was determined as part of the 2018 and 2019 budget and estimates process approved by the Government.

Over €27.85m has been allocated to Task Forces by the HSE and the Department of Health for community-based drugs initiatives this year. This included an additional €540,000 in one off funding to the Task Forces to support implementation of the national drugs strategy. In addition, Task Forces are being consulted by the HSE on the provision of €710,000 in one off funding for priority projects and services in CHO areas.

Implementing the health-led national drugs strategy continues to be a Government priority. The HSE national service plan for 2019 prioritises funding for integrated treatment services for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse concerns, improved healthcare services for people who are homeless and have addiction needs and greater access to services for those affected by drug and alcohol addiction in hospitals and communities.

The Department of Health is working with the Health Service Executive to finalise the 2019 National Service Plan. Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, including Tallaght LDATF, will be notified of their 2019 funding allocations once the service plan has been approved by the Minister for Health.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine".

Catherine Byrne T.D.
Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy.