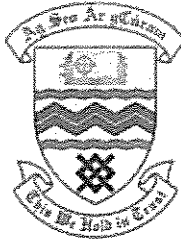


COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



MEETING OF CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

MOTION NO. 1

MOTION: Councillor F. Timmons

"That this committee supports and commends See Change who are Ireland's organisation dedicated to ending mental health stigma. We want to send out a clear message that it is ok not to be ok!

We ask South Dublin County Council to actively promote mental health on Twitter and Facebook i.e. share helplines and promote positive mental health within South Dublin County Council?

We also send our deepest sympathy and solidarity to the many families affected by Suicide in our area.

We also commit to writing to the Minister for Health to ask that additional resources are immediately given to the Clondalkin area to support our community in dealing with this issue and also to support the families and friends left devastated by the loss."

REPORT:

Planning for South Dublin County Council's 2018 Annual Health and Well-Being Week is already underway with the Communications Unit playing in key role in its promotion. As in previous years, an extensive programme of events will be developed in partnership with a host of organisations and agencies, both local and national, and will be delivered at venues throughout the County. These will be heavily promoted on social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as through other means.

Health and wellbeing, incorporating mental health, is one of the major challenges faced by all who live, work or visit our County and healthy minds and bodies are essential to enjoying complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. As such, the Council continuously promotes well-being events to our citizens, most recently through the Bealtaine Festival, free yoga sessions at the

Round Tower, through 55+ Daily Activity, Community Planting Day and various library events. These are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle, both physically and mentally, and encourage our citizens to take part and develop relationships within their communities.

South Dublin County Council have also helped promote national campaigns, such as the HSE's #littlethings campaign, on social media and will continue to do so in the future.

If the motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Health for their attention and, when a reply is received, the Committee will be notified accordingly.



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September 2019

Environment Water & Climate Change
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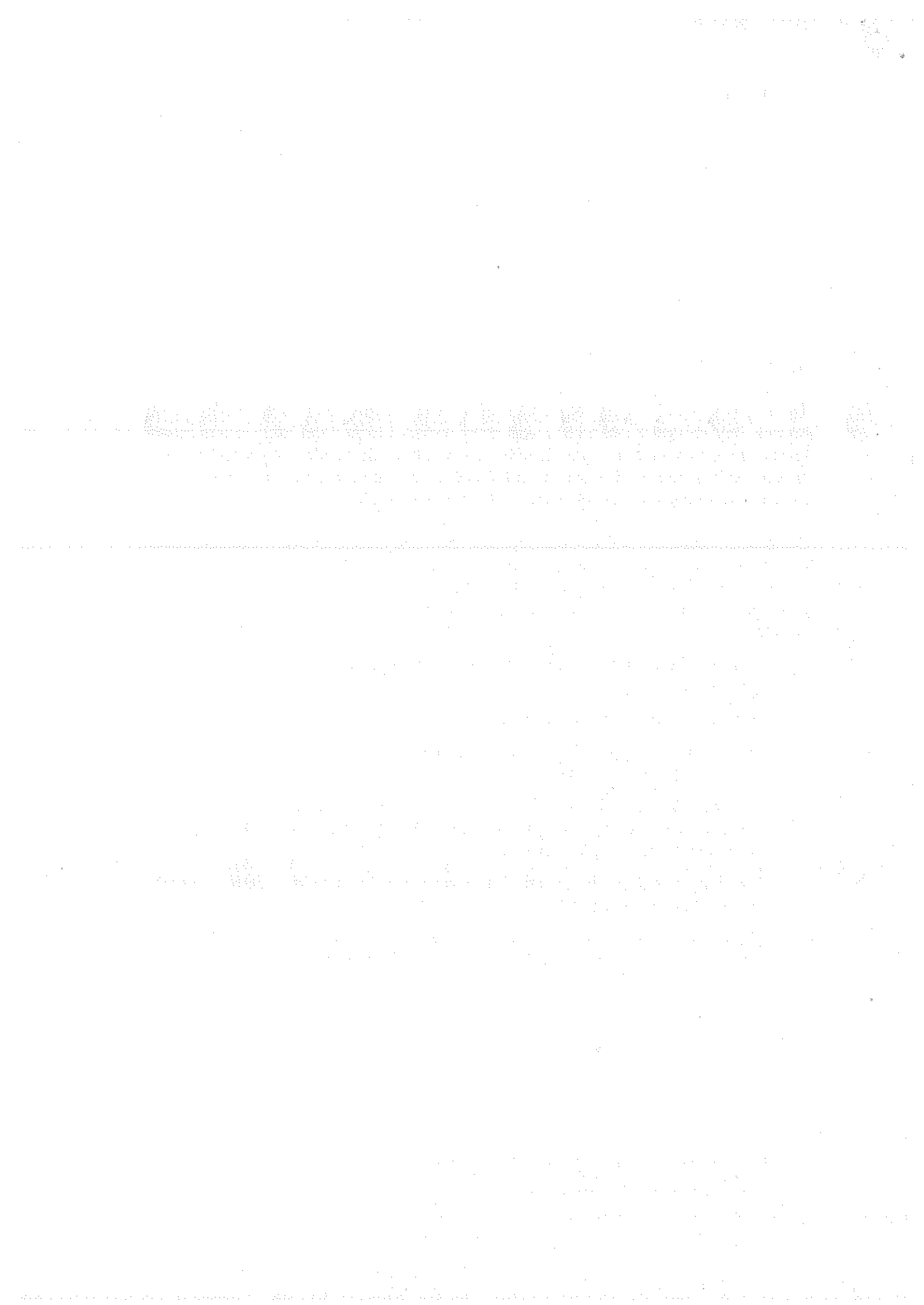
Ms. Feoneadh Murphy
Senior Staff Officer
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Dear Ms. Murphy

I refer to your letter on behalf of the Clondalkin Area Committee of South Dublin County Council, requesting that additional resources be provided to the Clondalkin area to support suicide prevention initiatives and families bereaved through suicide. I would like to convey my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. I receive a very large volume of correspondence and on occasion, delays can arise in responding.

Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (CH07) monitor suicides through our services and partner agencies in consultation with Suicide Resource Officers within the area. There have been several responses both to individual suicides in terms of supports to families in the aftermath of suicide and at community level. These responses have included:

- Individual support through the Primary Care Psychology services to children bereaved by suicide.
- Support to community members given by Primary Care Psychology.
- Linking in with appropriate services to support individual families and the community in the aftermath of suicide.
- Working with agencies who have contacted the HSE with concerns around family members bereaved by suicide and ensuring a timely access into appropriate services including Mental Health Services.
- Working with agencies concerned with substance misuse to identify trends in relation to polydrug use and suicide.
- Supporting local community initiatives to respond to suicide at a local level through training and developing a local resource for residents in relation to agencies available to support them around the issue of suicide.



In February 2018, following an extensive consultation which identified key risks in relation to suicide in the Dublin South area and associated service challenges, 'Connecting for Life Dublin South; Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018-2020' was launched. The implementation of this report has been driven by one of three Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention across Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow. 'Connecting for Life Dublin South' details 64 actions that are currently being implemented in the area with the aim of reducing the rate of suicide in South Dublin in line with national targets.

Connecting for Life Dublin South has 7 strategic goals:

1. To improve the understanding of, and attitudes to, suicidal behaviour, mental health and well-being within Dublin South.
2. To support local communities' capacity to prevent and respond to suicidal behaviour.
3. To target approaches to reduce suicidal behaviour and improve mental health among priority groups.
4. To enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour.
5. To ensure safe and high-quality services for people vulnerable to suicide.
6. To reduce and restrict access to means of suicidal behaviour.
7. To improve surveillance, evaluation and high-quality research relating to suicidal behaviour.

The HSE Connecting for Life Suicide Action Plan for Dublin South can be found on the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/connecting-for-life-dublin-south.pdf>

The Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention in Dublin South, acting as a conduit for community based actions detailed in the Connected for Life Action Plan, has worked with Clondalkin Action on Suicide to ascertain supports needed within the Community in response to a number of suicides in the North Clondalkin/Lucan area. A number of initiatives have been developed to support families of the bereaved and to identify and link vulnerable young mothers into appropriate services.

- Public Health Nurses were informed around concerns regarding young mothers and suicide risk and were advised of appropriate care pathways if they were concerned about a mother.
- Quarryvale Family Resource Centre facilitated a Drop-In Support Group which could be accessed by any member of the community.
- CAS also hosted a morning workshop to identify referral and service pathways for

people 'at risk' of suicide. This was attended by a number of key local agencies, the HSE and TUSLA.

The HSE and TUSLA continue to work with Pieta House to advise them of appropriate referral pathways around Family Support and/or Substance Misuse.

Services offering mental health supports operating in Clondalkin/Lucan include:

- HSE Primary Care Psychology (Under 18's service and a Parenting Clinic).
- Pieta House (Lucan) (suicide and self-harm service for all ages).
- Teencounselling (Clondalkin) (under 18's service).
- Beacon of Light Counselling Service (all ages).
- Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme (substance misusers and family).
- Clondalkin Tus Nua (substance misusers and family).
- Quarryvale Family Resource (play therapy and adult counselling).
- Deansrath Family Centre (interventions for children).
- HeadsUp (support programme for men).
- Phoenix Clubhouse – EVE (mental health service users).

In the broader context, reducing suicide levels nationally remains a priority for Government, which remains committed to implementing Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide - *Connecting for Life* - nationwide. In August 2019, the HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) 2018 Annual Report was launched, detailing NOSP's work in 2018 including developments related to the ongoing implementation of *Connecting for Life*. The report highlights the improved provision of free, evidence informed suicide and self-harm training in communities nationwide.

Other highlights from the Annual Report include: the significant increase in the Government funding allocation to NOSP to almost €12 million in 2018 – a significant increase in investment as the NOSP budget in 2012 was €5.2 million; and the commencement of an Interim Strategy Review of *Connecting for Life* – to identify potential for improvements and to provide actionable, realistic, results orientated recommendations to drive the work associated with the strategy to 2020, and beyond.

The NOSP 2018 Annual Report can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/news/nosp-annual-report-2018.pdf>



I hope that this information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Harris', written in a cursive style.

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health

