

National Youth Mental Health Taskforce – Extracts from Programme for Partnership Government & Taoiseach’s 100 day priority commitment

Extract from Programme for Partnership Government, Page 67

Section 6 Mental Health

3. Bringing Youth Mental Health to the Fore through Our Education System

*An increasing concern in schools and for families, we need to promote awareness and prevention in our education system rather than reacting to incidents. In 2017, Well-being will be introduced as a subject in the new Junior Cert curriculum and this is a positive step in raising understanding and awareness amongst teenagers. However, a more thorough understanding of students’ own emotional well-being is also required. **A National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health will be established to consider how best to introduce and teach resilience, coping mechanisms, greater awareness to children and young people, and how to access support services voluntarily at a young age.** For teaching staff also, we will invest in SafeTALK and ASIST courses.*

Accessible and informal mental health services can play a vital role in connecting with young people. We will extend these services, such as Jigsaw, which is free to access and does not require GP referral, which are more informal and attractive to young people.

http://www.merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/ImageLibrary/Programme_for_Partnership_Government.pdf

Extract from Speech by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD: Nomination of Members of the Government, Dáil Éireann, 06 May 2016

“A Ceann Comhairle,

I want to make it clear that there will be new attention put on our psychological and emotional wellbeing as a country.

It is clear that our children and teenagers especially need support to navigate a world that, while it can be marvellous, can also be merciless.

Within the first 100 days, we will establish a National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health to consider how to address such challenges, to teach our young people resilience and how they and their families can access the services they need.

Every community in Ireland has been afflicted by suicide or self-harm.

Connecting for Life, Ireland’s National Strategy for Suicide Prevention has many commitments that do not have a financial cost; they require a political and community commitment.

It is up to all of us every day to make the difference.

I wish for Ireland to become more aware of how we depend not alone on those in our community, but frequently on the kindness of strangers.

We must be that kind stranger ourselves.”

http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/News/Taoiseach's_Speeches/Speech_by_An_Taoiseach_Enda_Kenny_TD_Nomination_of_Members_of_the_Government_Dail_Eireann_06_May_2016.html