



Factsheet

Budget 2024 allocation of €9m for National Drugs Strategy & Inclusion Health



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

€4m to expand drug services in the community

In Budget 2024, Minister Hildegarde Naughton has secured an additional €4m (with 10 healthcare posts) to implement the national drugs strategy. The funding will be used to develop new services for young people with drug dependency and mental health issues, to expand community-based drug services for existing and emerging drug trends, to support people in recovery and to provide services for people with problem gambling and gaming. This funding is in addition to €5.75m recurring in 2023.

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The innovative funding will enhance the capacity of drug services to respond to the existing and emerging needs of people who use drugs. - Minister Naughton
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Key outputs from the new measures

- More treatment services will be available to meet increased demand
- The multiple needs of children and young people who use drugs will be addressed
- Access to services in disadvantaged communities will be improved
- More people will be supported on their recovery journey
- Drug related harms and deaths will be reduced



Establish a hub for adolescent dual diagnosis programme (concurrent mental health disorder and substance use disorder) serving south Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow and providing outreach to Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. Based in Yoda (Youth Drug and Alcohol Service), the services will benefit young people aged 10 to 17 years. €480,000 (A second hub - Substance Abuse Service Specific to Youth - will be established serving north Dublin city and county, with outreach to the southeast, Cork/Kerry and Louth/Meath, with funding provided by Minister Butler).



Minister Naughton is funding the development of integrated care pathways for young people presenting with drugs and mental health disorders to Early Intervention in Psychosis and Crisis Resolution Teams, serving Cork/Kerry, Sligo/Leitrim, South Dublin/Wicklow. €160,000



Expand harm-reduction services for adults and children experiencing difficulties with gambling and gaming. This will include information and resources on problem gambling and gaming, including prevention, treatment and support services. €500,000 (which builds on the similar amount provided in 2023).



We have a dedicated funding allocation to support the recovery of people with drug dependency and their integration into everyday life, including family, housing, employment and education. It will include peer-based recovery support and coaching, and the development of recovery communities. €800,000



Support and expand community-based drug services in conjunction with drug and alcohol task forces and CHOs. This will meet the increased demand for services, improve service design, and strengthen integration with community care. €2m with a further €2m in 2025.

€5m to improve healthcare services for people who are homeless

Minister Naughton has provided an additional €5m to support the health needs of people who are homeless, as well as Roma and Travellers, including integrated care and case management, public health mitigation measures and improvements in healthcare delivery. Also funded is the provision of wrap-around health supports for people with a housing tenancy under the Housing First programme, to eliminate long-term homelessness. This is on top of €4m recurring funding in 2023.

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This funding will improve access to healthcare services and minimise the risk of illness and death for people who are homeless. It will also support long-term housing and recovery through Housing First. - Minister Naughton

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Key outputs from the new measures

- 1,500 individuals will receive integrated care and case management
- Over 1,000 people will attend specific GP services, e.g. in-reach and out-reach GP services,
- Additional 260 people will receive intensive health supports to sustain housing tenancies with Housing First
- Fewer premature deaths among people who are homeless, Roma and Travellers.



Provide integrated care and case management for people in private emergency accommodation, including rough sleepers and those leaving hospital, including onsite interventions, health assessments, psycho-social supports and nursing services. €1.34m



Maintain public health mitigation measures for people living in congregated homeless services, to include temporary emergency accommodation initiatives, increased GP capacity and person-centred health supports. €1.151m



Improvements in healthcare delivery, including the expansion of GP services and in-reach supports, rough sleepers outreach services, homeless drug outreach programme and capacity building with health training for specialist staff, and mental health supports. €633,000



Continue the development of health services and supports for Roma with insecure/poor housing conditions, in order to prevent homelessness and to support access for those at risk of poor health. €333,000

(Separately, funding is being provided to expand the Traveller Counselling Service in line with the National Traveller Health Action Plan & Connecting for Life by Minister Butler.)



Clinics offering GP and nursing care to homeless and other marginalised groups. €83,000



Wrap-around health supports for Housing First tenancies, including physical health, mental health and addiction supports. €1m



Further details of the new measures and the associated outputs will be set out in the HSE national service plan for 2024