

Mental Health Reform, together with our 85 member organisations, call on the Government to

Invest an additional €120 Million in our Mental Health Services for Budget 2025

€40 MILLION

Maintenance of existing services



€80 MILLION

Development of services to address unmet need

WHY INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH?

Research shows that over 40 per cent of the Irish population experience mental health difficulties and one in 10 people report a history of attempted suicide.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people seeking mental health care has drastically increased. Many children and young people are not receiving appropriate or timely support due to staff shortages and a lack of resources in the mental health system.

The voluntary and community mental health sector plays an indispensable role in the delivery of early intervention and prevention services. Investment in these services is key to preventing the development of complex and costly mental health difficulties and reducing the need for specialist care.

Despite this, our expenditure on preventative healthcare only amounts to 1% of our total health expenditure, and yet any investment in prevention can yield two to four times the economic benefit.

The need for more funding could not be clearer yet the percentage of the health budget allocated to mental health has stagnated between 5 - 6% since 2020. This is around half of the Government's own target and lags far behind other countries.

This is the final year in the current Programme for Government and our last opportunity to secure adequate investment for mental health before the general election.



RIGHT NOW THERE ARE...

<p>1. High rates of mental health difficulties in Ireland</p>	<p>2. Demographic changes in mental health needs affecting children, adults and older people</p>	<p>3. Increased demands on the voluntary and community mental health sector</p>	<p>4. Low rates of investment in mental health</p>	<p>5. Key reforms to Ireland's mental health legislation on the horizon</p>
---	--	---	--	---

**We all have a reason to invest in mental health.
We all are a reason to invest in mental health.**

WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT NEED TO INVEST IN?

Invest in Communities Through Early Intervention and Prevention | €25M

- * **Early Intervention:** Invest in early intervention and prevention services through the voluntary and community mental health sector
- * **Sustainability:** Provide multi-annual, sustainable funding to the voluntary and community mental health sector
- * **Data Management:** Fund and implement a national data management system that amalgamates the data on the impact and reach of voluntary and community sector mental health services

Advance *Sharing the Vision* | €40M

- * **Implementation:** MHR is calling for the next implementation plan of our national mental health policy, *Sharing the Vision* to be fully costed and supported with a multi-annual budget line
- * **Investment:** Invest funding to support the delivery of the outstanding milestones from *Sharing the Vision*
- * **Capital Investment:** MHR calls for a targeted, funded strategic capital investment programme for inpatient mental health units to improve buildings and facilities

Resource Youth Mental Health Services | €10M



- * **Community Care:** Invest in community-based youth mental health programmes in the voluntary and community mental health sector
- * **Innovation:** Invest in the Children and Young Person Mental Health 'pathfinder' project
- * **Child and Youth Mental Health Office:** Fully resource the HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office and their upcoming Action Plan
- * **Governance:** Implement the 49 recommendations in the Mental Health Commission's 2023 Independent Review of CAMHS to improve the quality of services for children and young people

Deliver on the Programme for Government Commitments | €5M

- * **Legislation:** Introduce the Bill to reform the Mental Health Act, 2001 without delay and adequately resource reform
- * **Advocacy:** Fund a national independent advocacy service for mental health for all ages
- * **Data Management:** Resource the full implementation of the Integrated Financial and Procurement Management System (IFMS) and introduce budgetary tagging across the Well-being Framework to provide transparency in how mental health funding is allocated



GET INVOLVED
mentalhealthreform.ie

Contact your local TD: [click here](#)

View our full pre-budget submission: mentalhealthreform.ie/budget-2025/

Follow us on social media & use hashtags: [#IAmAReason](#) [#Budget25](#)

Charity Number: 19958

RCN: 20078737

Company Number: 506850

 mentalhealthreform

 @MHReform

 @MHReform

 Mental Health Reform