# **Mental Health Reform General Election 2024 Manifesto Analysis\***

***\*****according to most up-to-date information on 28th November 2024[[1]](#footnote-1).*

Mental Health Reform (MHR) has reviewed currently published General Election manifestos by political parties to identify their commitments on mental health. The analysis only includes parties who have published a manifesto.

The following table details some of MHR’s priority General Election asks, and which parties have included a commitment to addressing the ask in their manifestos. MHR acknowledges that while the party may not have used the exact wording of MHR, there may be some commitment within that category. Green indicates full commitment to the ask (or a commitment exceeding MHR’s ask), orange indicates a partial commitment to the ask and red indicates that the ask has not been explicitly committed to in the party’s manifesto.

The political parties are listed below in alphabetical order.

Where there is a full commitment, indicated by green, or a partial commitment, indicated by orange, further information on the party’s commitment to that category is detailed below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MHR ASKS** | | | | | |
| **Party** | **Invest 10% in Mental Health** | **Reform Mental Health Act** | **Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector** | **HSE National Lead in Mental Health** | **Resource Sharing the Vision** |
| **Aontú** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fianna**  **Fáil** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fine Gael** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Green Party** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Independent Ireland** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Labour** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **People Before Profit** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sinn Fein** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Social Democrats** |  |  |  |  |  |

*Full details of commitments made relating to mental health can be found on our website* [*www.mentalhealthreform.ie/election-2024*](http://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/election-2024)*. The information above is correct according to most up-to-date information on 28th November 2024. If there are any errors please contact* [*sweedle@mentalhealthreform.ie*](mailto:sweedle@mentalhealthreform.ie)*.*

## **General Reflections\***

* Every party’s manifesto makes some sort of reference to funding at least one mental health initiative, indicating just how important mental health support is.
* Two thirds of the parties explicitly commit to advance the Reform of the Mental Health Act, 2001, which makes it an item that should be central in Programme for Government negotiations.
* All parties, bar two, reference the importance of the Voluntary and Community Sector in some way in their manifestos, indicating just how central the sector is to service provision.

***\*according to most up-to-date polling.***

## **Full commitments (green ratings).**

**Fianna Fáil**

**Reform Mental Health Act**

In reference to the Mental Health Bill 2024, the party makes the commitment that “*If returned to Government, we will prioritise passing this Bill to modernise the State’s approach to mental health services"* (p. 65) and that they will "*Legislate to regulate CAMHS*." (p. 65)

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

The party commits to "*Fund the national mental health policy Sharing the Vision."* (p. 68)

**Fine Gael**

**Reform Mental Health Act**

The party commits that "We will prioritise the enactment of the Mental Health Bill 2004, which is essential for modernising our mental health services and empowering individuals to take an active role in their care and treatment"

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

Party states that they will "*Support voluntary and community providers: We will strengthen the contributions of vital voluntary and community organisations working in mental health.”* (p. 91)

**HSE National Lead in Mental Health**

Party states that they will *"Ensure a dedicated national lead for mental health: We will appoint a national lead to oversee mental health initiatives and ensure effective implementation of strategies."*

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

Party commits to *"Fully implement ‘Sharing the Vision’: This national*

*mental health policy will enhance access and integration of services, including digital support, psychosocial therapies, and improved primary care mental health services"* (p. 91)

**Green Party**

**Reform Mental Health Act**

* Party commits to “*“Pass an amended version of the Mental Health Bill.”*

(p. 77)

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

* Party commits to “*Support NGOs such as Jigsaw that take an early intervention approach to mental health services”* (p. 77) and “*Focus on the groups most affected by loneliness – the young and the elderly – by supporting mental health teams in schools and services such as ALONE*.” (p.78)

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

Party commits to “*Ensure HSE regional authorities' staffing and capital investment plans are aligned with national mental health policies.”* (p. 77)

**HSE National Lead in Mental Health**

* Party commits to *"…Appoint a national mental health champion within the HSE."* (p. 77)

**Labour**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party commits to "*Meet the Sláintecare commitment to increase funding to 10% of the health budget and move towards a preventative approach."* (p. 74)

**Reform Mental Health Act**

"*Labour will pass the Mental Health Bill to ensure community CAMHS are regulated after recent*

*scandals"* (p. 36)

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

*"Labour will adopt a person-centred early intervention and prevention-based approach to mental health, properly resourcing statutory and community and voluntary sector mental health service providers and respecting and upholding the human rights of people in crisis"* (p. 74) and to *"Fund and implement a national data management system that amalgamates data on the impact and reach of voluntary and community mental health services."* (p. 75)

**HSE National Lead in Mental Health**

Party commits to *"…put in place a HSE National Lead for Mental Health and Regional Mental Health Leads for each of the health regions."* (p. 74)

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

*"Resource and implement the national mental health strategy Sharing the Vision."* (p. 74).

**People Before Profit**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

*"Invest €500 million in Mental Health Services in 2025 to bring spending towards 12% of overall health budget by 2027"* (p. 15)

**Sinn Féin**

**Reform Mental Health Act**

Party commits to *“Reform the Mental Health Act”* (p. 5) in Mental Health Action Plan.

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

The party’s General Election manifesto commits to “*Ending pay disparities between core service provider Section 39 organisations and the HSE*”. The Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector is acknowledged in the party’s Mental Health Action Plan - "*The community and voluntary mental health sector provide vital services for people that otherwise would not be seen in the public system*" (p. 3).

**Social Democrats**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party commits to “*Increasing funding for Mental Health to 10 per cent of health budget."* (p. 18)

**Reform Mental Health Act**

*"Progressing legislation to update the 2001 Mental Health Act so that it complies with international human rights standards."* (p. 18) and "*Reinstate the Mental Health Bill 2024 to Dáil Committee Stage and progress the Bill to*

*Completion”* (p. 21).

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

*"Ensure that mental health practitioners in the Community & Voluntary sector, including Section 39 workers, are paid fairly for the work they are doing."* (p. 20) and "*Grant additional funding for Community & Voluntary sector providers of mental health services*" (p. 21).

**HSE National Lead in Mental Health**

Party commits to *"Reinstate the role of dedicated national lead for mental health in the HSE to ensure national oversight and accountability in developing mental health services."* (p. *2*1).

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

"*Provide sufficient funding for the Sharing the Vision implementation plan*" (p. 21).

## **Partial commitments (orange ratings).**

**Aontú**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health but mentions funding a few mental health initiatives.

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

Party does not specifically mention Sharing the Vision but references investing in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as well as *“…wrap around supports for homeless people in terms of the prison service, social work, mental health and addiction services."* (p 11).

**Fianna Fáil**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health but mentions funding various mental health initiatives.

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

Party does not specifically commit to increasing the voluntary and community mental health sector funding, but page 82 mentions the *"Aim to achieve pay parity with the public sector for Section 39 staff"* and page 145 on "*Supporting Communities to Thrive*" does mention commitments to the voluntary and community sector more broadly.

**Fine Gael**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health but mentions funding various mental health initiatives and *"Progressive increases in funding for mental health services"* (page 91).

**Green Party**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health but mentions a large number of spending initiatives, including: *“Invest heavily in suicide and self-harm prevention services. “Implement the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).“Fund additional trainee psychological posts across professional doctoral programmes to meet current and future demand for experienced professionals in our health services.”* (p. 77)

**Independent Ireland**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health but mentions funding one mental health initiative – *“Introduce outpatient mental health respite facilities”* (p. 11).

**People Before Profit**

**Voluntary and Community Mental Health Sector**

Party does not specifically commit to increasing the voluntary and community mental health sector funding, but some mention of *“…investment in youth and community services*.” (p. 36) and that “*If elected People Before Profit candidates will only take the average wage and devote the rest of their salary to campaigning and community organisations.”*

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

Party does not specifically mention Sharing the Vision but references investing €500 million in Mental Health Services.

**Sinn Féin**

**Invest 10% in Mental Health**

Party does not specifically commit to 10% of Health Budget being allocated to mental health in the manifesto but mentions funding various mental health initiatives and *“€250m in additional current expenditure”* (p. 22).

**Resource Sharing the Vision**

Party does not specifically mention Sharing the Vision in their General Election Manifesto but mentions Sharing the Vision, the National Clinical Programmes in mental health and some priority groups of Sharing the Vision in Mental Health Action Plan - "*Embed mental health and wellbeing in community services for minority groups, marginalised people, and older people"* (p. 5).

1. Apologies to the Green Party who alerted us to inaccuracies in our scoring of their manifesto. Unfortunately, their 2020 and 2024 manifestos are both called ‘towards 2030’. Information has been rectified below. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)