

Development of the National Mental Health Promotion Plan

Principle Investigator: Professor Margaret Barry, University of Galway, Ireland

Researchers: Ms Tosca Keppler, University of Galway, Ireland and
Ms Anne Sheridan (external consultant)

Funded by: Department of Health.

Background

This project was commissioned by the Department of Health to support the drafting of the National Mental Health Promotion Plan, which is being developed in the context of the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 and the implementation of Sláintecare. The National Mental Health Promotion Plan will be underpinned by a whole of government approach and will provide strategic direction for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing at a population level in Ireland over the next five years.

Aim

The aim of this project is to outline a conceptual framework for the development of the Plan, identify key policy structures and processes to support the implementation of intersectoral mental health promotion, and identify priority areas for action, building on the *Stronger Together HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022-2027*, and drawing on international evidence and current policy priorities.

Methods

The project entails the following activities:

Conceptual Framework:

- Drafting the overarching framework, including outlining current frameworks, core concepts, principles that will inform a whole system approach to the development of the National Mental Health Promotion Plan.

International Policy Models:

- Scoping the literature on international best practice in developing mental health promotion policies, with special regard to implementing intersectoral mental health promotion policy approaches at a country level.
- Facilitating input from international mental health promotion experts on their experience of developing and implementing intersectoral mental health promotion policy development and the lessons learned.

Draft Priorities for Action:

- Identifying the priority areas for action, drawing on the synthesis of the international evidence, covering population groups across the life course and including actions that can be delivered across different settings and delivery platforms.
- Aligning the development of the Plan with existing national policy priorities, working with national experts to ensure synergies with existing policy structures and processes, especially in relation to the Stronger Together HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022-2027.
- Working in collaboration with the Department of Health Oversight Group to identify the key elements of the Plan regarding inter-governmental actions and responsibilities across departments.

Findings

The findings from this project will outline a conceptual framework for the National Mental Health Promotion Plan, identifying a set of strategic policy directions and evidence-based priority actions for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing at a population level in Ireland over the next five years. Drawing on international best practice and experience, the cross-governmental level policy processes and structures needed to support the implementation of the Plan will also be outlined.

Knowledge Translation

The findings from this project will be used to inform the development of a whole system approach to population mental health promotion and will directly inform the drafting of the National Mental Health Promotion Plan.

Dissemination

The final report will be produced in 2023.