

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS HEALTH CONCERNS



As part of the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan (2021-2025), the Government will link in with businesses and employers, public bodies and organisations, sports and voluntary groups, communities and families across the country as part of a cross-government approach with a special emphasis on health inequalities, and to enable people to live healthier lives.

Building on the success of the Healthy Ireland Framework, which was published in 2013, the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan contains 56 actions across six themes, which will be implemented over the next five years.

Each action has a lead government department from across 14 separate Government Departments. In the first seven years of implementation, Healthy Ireland through its partnerships has built cross-society foundations which will help it deliver into the future.

This latest Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan provides the latest roadmap on the provision of access to services, healthy environments, with the ambition of promoting resilience to ensure that everyone can enjoy physical and mental, health and wellbeing, to their full potential.

Following the launch of the plan in May, Taoiseach Micheál Martin noted that as Ireland begins to slowly emerge from the pandemic, now more than ever people have a greater focus on their health, and an understanding of their overall sense of wellbeing and how it can be impacted so greatly.

“Healthy Ireland gives us a vision of how we as a society can work together to bring about a healthier Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental, health and wellbeing, to their full potential.”

He said that the government will be placing a special emphasis on health inequalities in this plan, to make sure that all people are enabled and empowered to live healthier lives.

SETTING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

The plan was launched on 11 May by Health Minister Stephen Donnelly TD (pictured above), and Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy Frank Feighan TD.



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Healthy Ireland The next 3 years

By 2024 Healthy Ireland will have supported:

18



Sláintecare Healthy Communities established in disadvantaged communities

Initiatives developed to address health inequalities implemented in 18 areas by 2022 and roll-out to more groups progressed.

4,500



People benefitting from the Sláintecare Age-Friendly Healthy Homes Scheme

The new scheme will help older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence for as long as possible.

14



Government Departments with enhanced involvement on the determinants of health

Government Departments will have ownership of actions across Government on the determinants of health.

5+



New policies developed to promote and improve public health and wellbeing

The evidence-led policies and action plans will address sexual health, physical activity, nutrition, obesity, alcohol and mental health promotion.

500



More GAA clubs providing the holistic Healthy Clubs model to members and communities

An action plan to drive participation among other sporting organisations will be developed and implementation evaluated.

30



Third-level institutions implementing the Healthy Campus programme

Toolkits and evaluation guidelines to support local programmes will be produced and models of best practice will be identified.

communities bearing a higher burden of chronic disease with increased levels of mortality.”

LOCAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Minister Donnelly said that this plan aims to address those communities most impacted by the social determinants of health through the inclusion of a new Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, working in particular with local authorities, other government departments, NGOs, and the HSE to tackle health inequalities.

Minister Frank Feighan pointed out that partnership has been the cornerstone of Healthy Ireland.

“COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of bringing together key players and stakeholders, to work together to a common goal, both at a local and a national level. This next phase of Healthy Ireland will build on these partnerships,” he added.

Laura Magahy, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Health with responsibility for the implementation of Sláintecare, including Healthy Ireland, said: “One of the key principles of Sláintecare is to promote health and wellbeing and prevent illness and this principle embodies all that Healthy Ireland seeks to achieve.

“The Healthy Ireland Framework provides the architecture to address the social determinants of health, and thereby prevent chronic disease and other

Minister Donnelly said: “Healthy Ireland is a core part of the implementation of Sláintecare, in particular on keeping people well in their own homes and communities, and helping people to stay out of hospital for as long as possible.

“National policies and strategies have been developed and are being implemented across a range of health

behaviours that impact the health and wellbeing of our people, including physical activity, obesity, smoking, alcohol, sexual health and skin cancer. All this work has set very strong foundations on which to build for the next five years.

“We know that health and wellbeing is not evenly distributed across the population with our most deprived

avoidable illness and incapacity. We have ambitious plans over the next five years and I look forward in particular to the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.”

To download the plan click on

<https://bit.ly/3wt9hVr>

For further information email

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