



Mental Health Reform, together with our 81 member organisations, call on the Government to

INVEST AN ADDITIONAL €100 MILLION IN OUR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR BUDGET 2023

€25 MILLION

Maintenance of existing services



€75 MILLION

Development of services to address unmet need



100M

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, waiting lists for mental health services have grown significantly due to an increase in mental health needs. These delays can have a detrimental impact on people experiencing mental health difficulties. For many years, funding for mental health has stalled between 5 and 6% of Ireland's total



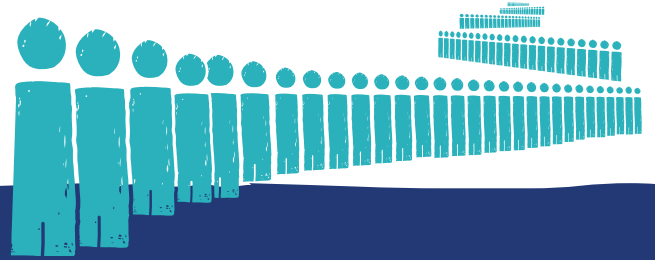
health budget. This is less than half of what the recommended spend is internationally. The Government has acknowledged the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. While the urgency of the pandemic may appear to have faded, the mental health 'shadow pandemic' will be felt long into the future if we do not act now.

PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER

What does the government need to invest in?

1. **Prioritise Mental Health Services**
 - a) Increase spending on mental health to 10% of the total health budget by 2024
 - b) Reinstate the National Lead of Mental Health, reporting directly to the CEO of the HSE
2. Resource the 2023 milestones of the *Sharing the Vision* Implementation Plan
3. Support the **Voluntary and Community Sector** mental health services
4. Address waiting lists and improve the standard of care in **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**
5. Resource legislative changes in the reform of the Mental Health Act 2001
6. Fund an **independent advocacy service** for people with mental health difficulties
7. Invest in the **Individual Placement and Support** scheme
8. Improve mental health supports for 'priority groups' including LGBTI+ People, Ethnic Minorities and the Prison Population





Why invest in Mental Health?

1. Investment and Leadership

The reinstatement of a **National Lead for Mental Health** in the HSE is essential to ensuring oversight and leadership in the improvement of mental health services across Ireland.

In 2022, the national mental health budget represents only **5.5%** of the total health budget.

A Vision for Change

recommended **8%** by 2016

Sláintecare recommended

at least 10% in 2017

The UK spends almost **15%**,

France spends over **14%**

€75 million

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2. Sharing the Vision

The **Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan** sets out milestones for the improvement of mental health services in 2023. Funding is critical to ensure this policy delivers meaningful changes in our mental health system.

€38 million

3. Voluntary and Community Sector

The **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)** mental health services are experiencing a drastic increase in demand for their services. Long-term, multi-annual funding, as promised in the Government's five-year strategy, is required to enable the VCS to continue providing vital services.

€20 million

4. CAMHS

As of May 2022, there were **4,294 children** and young people on the waiting list for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). This represents almost a **60% increase since 2020**.

€2 million

5. Legislative Change

The upcoming reform of the Mental Health Act 2001 will bring significant changes to mental health services. Additional resourcing is needed to support this transition.

€2 million

6. Advocacy

The **National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021** promised to examine the need for a national advocacy service for children and adults with mental health difficulties. We are now in 2022 and we are still waiting for this action to be completed.

€1.7 million

7. Individual Placement and Support

The **Individual Placement and Support (IPS)** approach is an effective method for supporting people with mental health difficulties to achieve sustainable employment but better accessibility throughout the country is needed.

€1.3 million

8. Priority Groups

Priority groups including **LGBTI+ people, ethnic minority communities and the prison population** have a higher incidence of mental health difficulties than the general population.

€10 million

GET INVOLVED



mentalhealthreform.ie

Contact your local TD

<https://action.uplift.ie/campaigns/email-your-tds-about-mental-health-supports-in-budget-2023>

View our full pre-budget submission

<https://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/budget-2023/>

Follow us on social media Use the hashtags: **#CostOfWaiting #Budget23**