

Enter Local Primary Care Social Work details here



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



A large, empty rectangular box with a thin red border, intended for entering local primary care social work details.

Primary Care Social Work Service

Leaflet for Professionals



Social Work in Primary Care

The Primary Care Social Work Service is a generic service provided to all age groups at community level. It aims to promote a population health model enhancing the quality of life and well-being of the local population. As part of the Multidisciplinary Team the Primary Care Social Worker provides short term intervention to individuals, families, couples, and groups in the community.

How to refer to the Primary Care Social Work Service

Complete the Primary Care Referral Form clearly stating the reason for referral. Return the referral form to the address on this leaflet.

Incomplete referrals or referrals without consent will be returned to sender.

We are happy to discuss potential referrals with you prior to referral and welcome the opportunity to co-work and complete joint home visits where appropriate.

Services provided by Primary Care Social Workers

We provide advice and support on the following:

- Advocate on Service Users behalf to ensure their rights are upheld.
- Empower Service Users to deal with their situation & bring about change.
- Carer support/organising community services.
- Advise on relationship difficulties including: separation, domestic violence & family disputes.
- Assist with life changing issues including bereavement and trauma.
- Signpost you to services dealing with issues such as addiction and unplanned pregnancy.
- Help with residential care planning & Fair Deal applications.
- Refer you to specialist counselling services where necessary.
- Referral to the appropriate housing and homeless agencies.
- Assistance in dealing with stress & anxiety.
- Facilitation of groups in some CHO Areas, where resources permit.

(This is not an exhaustive list)

Referrals more appropriate to other Social Work services

- Child protection and welfare concerns. → Contact TUSLA Child and Family Agency.
- Vulnerable adults at risk of abuse and severe self-neglect → Contact your local Safeguarding Team.
- Referrals for Home Care Packages, Respite, or Home Help → Contact the local Public Health Nurse.
- Housing issues should be referred directly to the relevant County Council's Housing and Welfare Department.
- Individuals with significant Mental Health issues → Refer to the appropriate Mental Health Service.
- Families or individuals who are already linked to a Social Work service, whether statutory or voluntary.