

## NSRF ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ENTER >



National Suicide Research Foundation

Published by National Suicide Research Foundation Compiled by: Mr Niall McTernan Designed by: Mr Alan O'Shea

ISSN 2712-0341

Hard copies of the Annual Report are available from: National Suicide Research Foundation, 4.28 Western Gateway Building, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

Tel: +353 21 420 5551 Email: **infonsrf@ucc.ie** 

Electronic copies of the Annual Report are available from the National Suicide Research Foundation website: **www.nsrf.ie** 

## **Table of Contents**

#### 2 Foreword

#### 4 Highlights of the year

#### 5 Activities overview

- 5 Outcomes and impact of NSRF research
- 8 Research dissemination
- 12 Deliverables and events related to NSRF Projects
- 15 New funding awards
- 15 International and national collaborations related to COVID-19
- 16 Awards and achievements

#### 17 Governance and Personnel

- 17 Priorities and values
- 17 Structure, Governance and Management
- 19 Principles of Good Governance
- 20 NSRF Strategic Research Clusters
- 20 Governance Structure
- 21 Company members and Board of Directors
- 21 Personnel in 2022
- 23 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

#### 24 Strategic Research Clusters

\*Some research projects match the objectives of more than one research cluster, projects will be aligned to their primary grouping.

#### 24 (1) Surveillance of Self-Harm, Suicide and Mental Health Problems

- 24 National Self-Harm Registry Ireland
- 25 Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm
- 25 Self-Harm in Irish Prisons: The Self-Harm Assessment and Data Analysis (SADA) Project
- 26 Suicide and Self Harm Observatory (SSHO)
- 27 WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention

#### 28 (2) Programme Evaluation

- 28 National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Project Ireland
- 29 Open Dialogue Project
- 29 50808 Project
- 30 SECH counselling service evaluation
- 30 CAMS evaluation in CHO7

#### 31 (3) Assessment and Management of Self-Harm and Depression

- 31 Emerging Investigators Award (PRISM)
- 32 Development of a Self-Harm Assessment and Management programme for General Hospitals (SAMAGH)
- 33 EAAD-Best

#### 34 (4) Suicide and Self-Harm among Young and Older People

- Examining individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm and suicidality in older adults: improving risk assessment and management (SHOAR)
- Applying Research into Policy and Practice
   Award Youth self-harm and suicide Predictors of onset, escalation and premature mortality

#### 36 (5) Clinicial Subgroups

- 36 Improving Prediction and Risk Assessment of Suicide and Self-Harm (IMPRESS)
- 37 Deaths amongst Mental Health Services Patients
- Examining the incidence of self-harm and suicide among the Irish Traveller population
- Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders (MHAINTAIN)

#### 39 (6) Suicide, Self-Harm and Mental Health in the Workplace

 39 - Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings (MENTUPP)

#### 41 (7) Bereavement following Suicide

- 41 National Suicide Bereavement Survey
- 42 Profile and outcomes of individuals attending a suicide bereavement peer-support group.

#### 43 (8) Suicide and the Media

43 - The role of the media in suicide prevention

#### 44 (9) Restricting access to Lethal Means

44 - Working Group: Preventing Paracetamol-Related Intentional Drug Overdose

#### 45 (10) Other

- 45 C-SSHRI: Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland
- 46 Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals Survey
- 46 Development of national undergraduate curriculum in suicide prevention
- 47 Impact of Patient Suicide on Psychiatrists in Ireland
- 48 **Publications**

#### 51 Membership of Committees and Steering Groups

#### 53 Financial Statements

## Foreword

This Annual Report of the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) serves a dual purpose. It contains the Members' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2022, as tabled at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 25th 2023 and at the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Members held on July 5th 2023. This Report also contains a summary report on the research and associated activities undertaken by the NSRF team. Throughout the report, there is a focus on research undertaken in 2022 but, as many research studies are not completed within a calendar year, there are also references to milestones and deliverables in 2023 and succeeding years.

The mission of the NSRF when established, and now, is to provide a nationally and internationally recognised body of reliable knowledge from a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspective on the risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviour with an ultimate aim of providing solid evidence to inform policy development and intervention in the prevention of suicide and the management of patients presenting with self-harm. The members of the research team represent a broad range of disciplines including psychology, epidemiology, biostatistics, social science, applied social studies, public health and health services research.

The NSRF was established by the late Dr Michael J Kelleher in November 1994 as the Suicide Research Foundation Limited and in 2001, the Registrar of Business Names granted permission for the use of the name of National Suicide Research Foundation. The NSRF relocated to the Western Gateway Building in University College Cork in 2012 as part of the National Health Services Research Institute, established with capital funding from the Higher Education Authority's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutes V (PRTLI-V) and has a Memorandum of Collaboration with University College Cork. In 2015, the NSRF was designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention and, following a rigorous review process, the designation was renewed by the WHO in 2019.

The NSRF is constituted as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number 224676) as set out under the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects and how it conducts its business are set out in its Constitution which is posted on the NSRF website **www.nsrf.ie** under the 'About Us' section. The organisation is governed by its Constitution and is managed by a Board of Directors. The Constitution is publicly available from the Companies Registration Office website **www.cro.ie** in addition to the Charities Regulatory Authority website **www.charitiesregulator.ie**. The Registered Charity Number (RCN) is 20030889. The NSRF has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997; the Charity Tax Number is CHY11351. In line with requirements of the Companies Act 2014, the Financial Statements 2022 (Pages 83 to 136) have been prepared by independent auditors H&A Accounting Services Limited t/a Hickey & Associates, Cork. The NSRF has opted to report in accordance with the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 1st 2015 (SORP). The Financial Statements 2022 have been approved by the Board of Directors and have been submitted to the Companies Registration Office. The total incoming resources in 2022 was €1,551,467 and the total resources expended during the year amounted to €1,584,134. The NSRF employed 44 people during 2022. Costs in respect of salaries and and social security costs were €1,360,496. We are grateful to Ms Shelley Meenehan of Hickey & Associates for her sterling work on the audit of the NSRF accounts.

The NSRF works closely with the Health Service Executive's National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) in order to provide research and evidence in line with the objectives of Connecting for Life: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024. The NSRF has an Overall Agreement with the NOSP for the duration of Connecting for Life and receives annual funding, subject to a Service Arrangement, for the running of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and agreed research projects in the area of improved quality in suicide prevention. Additionally, the NSRF has a longstanding track record in obtaining grant funding from research-funding bodies. A breakdown of the Income and Expenditure 2022, in respect of the different tranches of funding, is contained in the Financial Statements 2022.

In 2022, a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) was finalised between the National Suicide Research Foundation and University College Cork (UCC), aimed at improving cohesion among research staff involved in the NSRF and UCC, and increasing the overall research capacity via acquisition of large-scale grant applications. This MoC will also facilitate dual research positions between the NSRF and UCC, which will contribute to broadening the expertise, capacity building and continuity in interdisciplinary research.

In 2022, the NSRF co-ordinated the following surveillance systems: the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and the Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory. The organisation also worked collaboratively with the Northern Ireland Public Health Agency to provide statistical anlaysis and verification of data in relation to the Northern Ireland Self-Harm Registry, and with the Irish Prison Service on the Surveillance and Monitoring of Self-Harm in Irish Prisons. In addition, the NSRF co-ordinated a multitude of research projects in the areas of suicide, self-harm and related mental health issues. Information on these various projects is contained throughout the report. Projects include the Development of a National Undergraduate Curriculum in Suicide Prevention; the Study of the Impact of Patient Suicide Deaths on Psychiatrists in Ireland; the National Suicide Bereavement Survey; Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings: MENTUPP. During 2022, the NSRF continued its collaboration with colleagues in the HSE on the National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Project and with the 50808 24/7 Crisis Text Service.

The NSRF meets requests for information from a wide range of stakeholders in policy, health and social services as well as the general population. In 2022, NSRF staff members were involved in 27 papers published in peer-review journals, including a number of high-impact journals, and papers relating to the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, NSRF staff members presented more than 58 lectures at local, national and international seminars and conferences including the European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen in August.

In 2022, the NSRF was represented on more than 53 advisory and steering groups at national and international level and NSRF staff members were involved in multiple international seminars and consultations as well as training programmes with the WHO. Notable and successful events hosted by the NSRF in 2022 included the World Suicide Prevention Day Webinar on September 10th at which the new Health Research Board Ireland Research Training Programme, MHAIN-TAIN, was launched, with four new PhD scholars starting their training programme and research projects; a Seminar held on October 14th in connection with World Mental Health Week, at which the Dr Michael Kelleher Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Eamon Keenan; the second Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop on the island of Ireland held on May 23rd and 24th, organised by the C-SSHRI Network: Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the Island of Ireland; a Workshop held in conjunction with the launch of Ireland's First National Suicide Bereavement Survey Afterwords in the Mansion House, Dublin hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Caroline Conroy. All events were very well attended.

The members of the NSRF team have worked tirelessly throughout 2022 on the surveillance systems and the various research projects. We would like to recognise these efforts and to thank staff members for their dedication and hard work. We look forward to continuing to work together in efforts to provide the strong research base necessary to underpin efforts in addressing suicide and self-harm as significant public health issues.



Dr Paul Corcoran Head of Research



**Ms Eileen Williamson** Chief Executive Officer



**Professor Ella Arensman** Chief Scientist Professor of Public Mental Health Head School of Public Health

## Highlights of the year





## Google Scholar Citations

5,137

Journal Publications



## Presentations







# Briefing Documents & <u>Policy Subm</u>issions





## **Outcomes and Impact of NSRF research**



In March and April 2022, the NSRF was delighted to collaborate and contribute to the evidence base for the Dispose of Unused Medicines Properly (DUMP) campaign via the PhD research of Dr Caroline Daly.

Storing medications in the long-term can result in accidental poisoning, intentional overdose, inappropriate sharing and environmental damage. The safe disposal of unused or out-of-date medicines is an important service to avoid these negative consequences.

Read more here: https://www.nsrf.ie/dispose-of-unused-medicines-properly-dump-campaign-march-14th-to-april-22nd/



In advance of International Workers Day 2022 on May 1st 2022, the MENTUPP consortium prepared a press release encouraging decision-makers in SMEs to make mental health a priority in their workplace by joining the project: https://tinyurl.com/65sj7wsw



On April 26th, the NSRF published a new report on the Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in collaboration with the Veterinary Council of Ireland and the National Office for Suicide Prevention.

The report, led by Dr Clíodhna O'Brien and Dr Paul Corcoran, is available to download here: https://tinyurl.com/yc4vvemu

A webinar detailing the findings is also available to watch here: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=tYl81-eJQmk

On May 6th, the NSRF launched the Cork-Kerry Alliance Against Depression in collaboration with EAAD-BEST.

Find out more about EAAD-BEST here: https://eaad-best.eu/

Watch the European Alliance Against Depression's Depression Awareness Video here: https://youtube.com/watch?v=8N2p-OX-vOPQ&t=1s



Also in May, Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Mallorie Leduc and Ms Almas Khan delivered training to GPs in the Cork and Kerry area on responding to Depression, Suicide and Self-Harm as part of the EAAD-BEST project.

We look forward to working with the Irish College of General Practitioners to host more information events in the future.





Dr Eve Griffin and Dr Katerina Kavalidou presented at the International Congress of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Edinburgh on June 21st.

Both Eve and Kat contributed to a symposium on Ireland's National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm and Suicide-related Ideation. More information here: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/ cspd/ncps/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/

Ireland's First National Suicide Bereavement Survey **'AfterWords -A survey of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland'**, a collaboration between the NSRF (led by Dr Eve Griffin) and HUGG (led by Ms Fiona Tuomey), was launched by Minister Mary Butler on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at an event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy, at the Mansion House, Dublin.

The launch was followed by a key stakeholder workshop, which generated important action points and priority recommendations to inform service development and policy, along with further research in this area.

Over 80 people also attended a public webinar on November 16th which included a presentation of key findings, an overview of next steps and a panel discussion.





National Suicide Research Foundation

"...Investigating the causes of suicide in Ireland..."





The 2020 Annual Report of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland was published on

November 9th, in addition to a data briefing

covering the period January-June 2021, utilis-

ing data from a sample of 22 hospitals.

tional Self-Harm Registry Ireland

#### Hospital-presenting self-harm during January-June 2021

#### Data Briefing, November 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated measures to address it have led to an increase in individual and population level risk factors for self-harm and suicide. Surveillance of mental health issues including depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicidal behaviours have been identified as a priority in order to inform interventions and comprehensive responses (Sinver et al., 2021).

Following an unrestricted Christmas holiday period with large numbers of visitors from the UK, Ireland experienced its third and largest wave of COVID-19 in early 2021, even achieving the highest seven-day infection rate in the world in mid-January (Figure 1). Level 5 restrictions applied throughout January-March 2021, with a phased return to schools in March, as Ireland's vaccination programme provided a first dose to 20% of over 18 year-olds. The lockdown remained in place until May 2021 and indoor hospitality remained closed through June.



Figure 1: Number and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ireland (Available at: hpsc.ie) The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI), operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) and funded by the Health Service Executive National Office for Suicide Prevention, collects data on self-harm presentations

#### 2020 report - https://www.nsrf.ie/wp-content/ uploads/2022/11/NSRF-National-Self-Harm-Registry-Ireland-annual-report-2020-Final-for-website.pdf

2021 Data Briefing - https://www.nsrf.ie/wp-content/ uploads/2022/11/Hospital-presenting-selfharm-during-January-June-2021-data-briefing-November-2022.pdf



The NSRF'S 2021 Annual Report was published on September 21st. It provided an overview of the work of the NSRF and research undertaken in 2021.



Ms Eileen Williamson, Mr Niall McTernan and Prof Ella Arensman attended a meeting of World Health Organisation Collaborating Centres who are part of the Pan-European Mental Health Coalition in Copenhagen on August 23rd. NSRF areas of expertise in relation to key priority areas within the European Framework for action on Mental Health 2021-2025 were discussed.

## **Research Dissemination**



On February 1st, Niall McTernan presented at a HSE Community Healthcare West Workshop on 'Safe and Sensitive Reporting of Suicide and Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing'.

The event was attended by local media and suicide prevention stakeholders.



On May 20th, Prof Ella Arensman presented the MENTUPP Thematic Workshop 'Working Together to Prevent Harm due to Alcohol in the Workplace'.







In early June, the MENTUPP consortium held a plenary meeting in Budapest led by principal investigator Professor Ella Arensman.

Dr Caleb Leduc and Prof Ella Arensman also attended the 15th Conference of the European Academy of Occupation Health Psychology in Bordeaux from July 6th to 8th.



On July 15th, Prof Arensman delivered a presentation as part of the UCD Child Psychiatry weekly webinar series on self-harm and suicide in young people.

Read Ella's slides here: https://tinyurl. com/5fz29bwb







Many of the NSRF team presented on a range of topics at the 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen from August 24th -27th. The Symposium provided an opportunity to connect, learn and collaborate our international colleagues.

#### Read more about our projects and findings here: **http://nsrf.ie**

Pictured (I-r): Dr Celine Larkin, Dr Caroline Daly, Dr Selena O'Connell, Dr Elaine McMahon, Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Mary Joyce, Ms Eileen Williamson, Mr Niall McTernan & Prof Ella Arensman.



NSRF researcher Dr Caroline Daly presented at the National Patient Safety Office annual conference in Dublin on October 11th.

Means restriction remains high on the NSRF agenda as a core goal of Connecting for Life.

Read more here: https://tinyurl. com/9p5jztet



On October 14th, the NSRF hosted a Suicide, Self-Harm and Mental Health virtual Seminar to mark World Mental Health Day.

The Dr Michael Kelleher Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof Eamon Keenan, alongside an interactive panel discussion on the topic of 'Future directions in suicide, self-harm and mental health research', Masterclasses and research presentations. Panel members included Prof Maurice Mulvenna (Ulster University), Dr Anita Munnelly (HSE NOSP), Claire Curran (Family Voices Forum), Dr Eric Kelleher (Cork University Hospital & UCC), and Eibhlín Walsh (University of Limerick).

Afternoon masterclasses included the following topics:

- Mental health and suicide prevention during COVID-19 and other concurrent public health emergencies
- Enhancing suicide prevention among the Travelling Community in Ireland.

NSRF researcher Dr Eve Griffin participated in a panel discussion at the Cork Film Festival on Saturday November 12th, 2022.

A World Health Organisation resource for filmmakers and others working on stage and screen, including contributions from several of the NSRF team, can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/237mek3e





On November 23rd, Dr Caroline Daly presented work on means restriction interventions for self-harm to pharmacists and

pharmacy staff at an Irish Institute of Pharmacy webinar. On November 24th, Dr Eve Griffin presented work on 'Restricting access to means: Public health approaches to reduce drug-

and alcohol -related self-harm' at the European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies in Lisbon.



The NSRF shared several research blogs in 2022 including:

- Are tougher regulations on paracetamol availability justified? https://www.nsrf.ie/are-tougher-regulations-on-paracetamol-availability-justified/
- Our work with the World Health Organisation: https://www.nsrf.ie/our-work-with-the-worldhealth-organisation/
- Dispose of Unused Medicines Properly (DUMP) Campaign - March 14th to April 22nd: https:// www.nsrf.ie/dispose-of-unused-medicinesproperly-dump-campaign-march-14th-toapril-22nd/
- The NSRHI and Data Registration Officers: https://www.nsrf.ie/the-nsrhi-and-data-registration-officers/
- The SHOAR Project: https://www.nsrf.ie/shoarimproving-care-pathways-and-understanding-of-self-harm-in-older-adults/

## **Deliverables and events related to NSRF Projects**



On February 24th and 25th, the NSRF delivered training for Clinical Nurse Specialists and Psychiatry Registrars in the ASSERT Centre, UCC.

Read more about the SAMAGH study here: https://tinyurl.com/y8og3htv



On March 24th and 25th, the EAAD-BEST consortium held its second plenary meeting in Barcelona (hybrid).

A key outcome from this meeting was the preparation of a Ukrainian version of the iFightDepression programme which was rolled out in April 2022.

The Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland (C-SSHRI) collaboration held its second meeting on March 29th.

The get-together focused on self-care and included presentations from Professor Ella Arensman and Susan O'Mahony.

Find out more here: https://tinyurl.com/4rzfnfp3





The Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland (C-SSHRI) collaboration, led by Project Co-ordinator Ms Fenella Ryan, hosted the Second Annual Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop on May 23rd and 24th.

Prof Ellen Townsend delivered a keynote lecture on involving people with lived experience in self-harm research in addition to several excellent presentations from early-mid career researchers on a range of diverse topics including:

- Real-time suicide surveillance
- Suicide bereavement
- Interventions for individuals with suicidal behaviour
- Suicide prevention among refugees



On June 14th and 15th, the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland team hosted a hybrid meeting in UCC.

It was fantastic to link up with the Registry Data Registration Officers (DROs) who are based across Ireland.

The DROs play a pivotal role in the NSHRI and we would like to commend them for continuing to collect comprehensive data in hospitals in challenging circumstances during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please see page 22 for a full list of the Registry's Data Registration Officers.



On September 15th, the NSRF hosted a World Suicide Prevention Day Webinar at which the new HRB Ireland Research Training Programme – MHAINTAIN, was launched.

More information on MHAINTAIN can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/bdw7s8t8

An EAAD-Best training demonstration and the iFightDepression website were also highlighted. Read more here: https://eaad-best.eu

On Tuesday November 22nd, 2022, the NSRF hosted the first webinar of the MHAINTAIN Research Training Network, including presentations on:

- Public Health Emergencies and the Impact on Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviour
- Cancer and the Impact on Mental Health
   and Suicidal Behaviour
- Eliminating Mind Body Dualism: the Integration of Mental and Physical Health in Children and Youth in Paediatric Care.





Dr Elaine McMahon, Dr Mary Joyce, Dr Mallorie Leduc and Dr Caroline Daly presented at a virtual workshop for the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention on November 29th.

#### Topics included:

(1) Suicide and Self-Harm among Young People

(2) Suicide, self-harm and mental health in the workplace

(3) Update on means restriction interventions to prevent intentional drug overdose in Ireland

NSRF research continues to provide outcome measures for Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024

Pictured above: Dr Mallorie Leduc presenting at the workshop.

## New Funding Awards

## In 2022, NSRF researchers were successful on the following funding applications:

• Dr Katerina Kavalidou - Quebec Population Health Research Network

Title: Cross-sectional and longitudinal association between physical multimorbidity and suicidal ideation in people with psychosis

Dr Katerina Kavalidou - Department of Health Funding Award

Title: Understanding the mental health challenges, service needs and potential interventions for women from the Traveller community presenting to Emergency Departments with suicidal ideation

- Prof Ella Arensman, Ms Eileen Williamson ERA PerMed Title: Towards Personalised Clinical Management of Suicide Risk through Data-Driven Clinical Decision Support using Transnational Electronic Registry Data [PERMANENS]
- Prof Ella Arensman, Ms Eileen Williamson European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA)

Title: Protecting mental health in times of change (MENTBEST)

# International and national collaborations related to COVID-19

NSRF researchers were authors on a number of papers related to the impact of COVID-19 on suicide behaviour in 2022, both as part of the International COVID-19 Suicide Prevention Research Collaboration (ICSPRC) and as part of existing national and international partnerships:

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on presentations to health services following selfharm: systematic review – (British Journal of Psychiatry, October 2022)
- Police-reported suicides during the first 16 months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ecuador: A timeseries analysis of trends and risk factors until June 2021 - (The Lancet Regional Health, October 2022)
- Suicide numbers during the first 9-15 months of the COVID-19 pandemic compared with pre-existing trends: An interrupted time series analysis in 33 countries – (EClinical Medicine, September 2022)
- Substance use and self-harm emergency department presentations during COVID 19: evidence from a National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm - (Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine, August 2022)

	NEWS
$\cup$	

International

**COVID-19 Suicide Prevention** 

## Awards and achievements

## 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour

Congratulations to Dr Caroline Daly for winning the best poster presentation award at the 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen for her work on 'Preventing intentional paracetamol overdose in countries with increasing rates and existing sales legislation'.





#### **Dr Ruth Benson**

Huge congratulations to Ruth Benson, who successfully passed her PhD Viva in October. Ruth's thesis addressed: Real-time surveillance for evidence-based responses to suicide contagion and clustering, which she conducted in the UCC School of Public Health and the National Suicide Research Foundation.

#### **MPH Graduations**

On April 13th, NSRF team members Mr Pawel Hursztyn and Ms Almas Khan graduated from the Master of Public Health programme at University College Cork.

Pawel's dissertation was supervised by Dr Eve Griffin and Dr Paul Corcoran and focused on 'Trends of Hospital Presenting Self-Harm in Cork City; Area and individual level factors', while Almas' dissertation examined 'Sexual health and a physical disability: A scoping review exploring the services and supports available to the persons with disability in the EEA and United Kingdom' and was supervised by Dr Martin Davoren.

## **Priorities and values**

The mission of the NSRF when established, and now, is to provide a nationally and internationally recognised body of reliable knowledge from a multi-disciplinary perspective on the risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviour with an ultimate aim of providing solid evidence to inform policy development and intervention in the prevention of suicide and the management of patients presenting with self-harm.

The NSRF has been recognised by the World Health Organisation as a Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention and members of the research team represent a broad range of disciplines, including psychology, epidemiology, biostatistics, sociology, social science, applied social studies, public health and health services research.

#### What the NSRF does

- The primary aims are the following:
- 1. **To Examine:** By monitoring trends, risk factors and protective factors associated with suicide and self-harm.
- 2. **To Translate:** By translating and disseminating research in order to inform and impact on policy and practice.
- 3. **To Intervene:** By applying information-based interventions at a local, national and international level.
- The NSRF also provides training to healthcare professional from general hospitals via projects such as the Self-Harm Assessment and Management in General Hospitals (SAMAGH) training programme and the Self-Harm and Suicide Awareness (SHARE) project.

#### What the NSRF does not do

• It is the remit of the Central Statistics Office to compile statistics relating to suicide in Ireland, however, the NSRF compiles data in relation to self-harm presentations to hospital via the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland. The latest annual report can be viewed here:

#### https://tinyurl.com/y349l7pj

• The NSRF is not a crisis centre and does not offer individual counselling or support, however, from time to time receives calls from distressed individuals and refers them to appropriate services that can offer support.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The National Suicide Research Foundation is constituted as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number 224676) as set out under the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects and how it conducts its business are set out in its Constitution which is posted on its website **www.nsrf.ie** under the About Us section and is publicly available from the Companies Registration Office website **www.cro.ie** and also the Charities Regulatory Authority website **www.charitiesregulator.ie** The Registered Charity Number is 20030889 and the Charity Tax Number is CHY11351.

The National Suicide Research Foundation was initially established in 1994 as the Suicide Research Foundation Limited. Permission was subsequently granted, in 1997, by the Companies Registration Office to dispense with the word Limited in the title of the company and in 2001, the Registrar of Business Names granted permission to use the name of National Suicide Research Foundation.

In late 2019 to comply with The European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Corporate Entities) Regulations 2019 (SI 110 of 2019) the National Suicide Research Foundation filed required details of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Head of Research on the RBO website - **www.rbo.gov.ie**  National Suicide Research Foundation staff members and directors have attended training on the implications of The Charities Regulator Governance Code which took effect in 2020. The NSRF has taken the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Code.

#### **Board of Directors**

The National Suicide Research Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors with a minimum number of 5 and a maximum number of 11 people. The Board meets at least five times each year. Each Director's term of office is three years. A Chairperson is elected by the Board of Directors whose term of office is also three years. At each Annual General Meeting one third of the Directors elected from the membership retire by rotation and may be eligible for re-election. The process for nominations and voting is laid out in the Election Rules document which is posted on the website and made available to all Members.

## Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of board Members

All new Directors receive a Board Induction Folder on appointment. This contains the following documentation: a Board Handbook, the Board-member Code of Conduct,

the NSRF Conflict of Interests Policy, the NSRF Governing Documents, the Strategic Plan, Board Minutes from the previous 12 months, Reports of the Chief Executive Officer from the previous 12 months, the annual Budget and other relevant documentation from the previous 12 months. Board Members also receive complete information on how the NSRF demonstrates its full compliance with the Governance Code. The Chief Executive Officer schedules a two hour Induction Meeting with each new Director following appointment, at which a sub-set of information customised for each new member is made available.

#### **Board Subgroups**

The National Suicide Research Foundation has three Standing Board Subgroups, namely:

- Operations Subgroup (with responsibility for the development of Policies & Procedures for approval by the Board of Directors and Human Resources relating to staff members with salaries not exceeding €40,000).
- 2) Research Advisory Subgroup.
- 3) Audit, Finance and Risk Management Subgroup.

## Organisational Structure and How Decisions are made

The National Suicide Research Foundation's main office is in Cork and staff members are based in Cork or in locations throughout the country. The team is led by the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Research and the Chief Scientist who report to the Board.

Certain decisions are specifically reserved for the Board and include:

- The Company's strategic plans and annual operating Budgets.
- Projects outside the scope of the strategic plan.
- Business acquisitions and disposals. National Suicide Research Foundation
- Litigation.
- Appointment/Removal of Subgroup Chairs and Members.
- Appointment/Removal of the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Research, Chief Scientist.
- Appointment/Removal of Auditors in accordance with decisions taken by Company Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- Approval of Borrowing/Finance Facilities.
- Approval of all new staff positions.
- Approval of Contracts exceeding €40,000 per annum and associated human resource issues for such staff members.
- Annual Review of Risk and Internal Control.
- Approval of policies and procedures and Board nominations.

Although ultimate responsibility for the governance of the National Suicide Research Foundation rests with the Board of Directors, certain duties and responsibilities are delegated from the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Research and the Chief Scientist and through them to the members of the staff team. These duties include implementation of the strategic plan; leading and managing the staff members, programmes, projects, finances and all other administrative aspects so that the NSRF's on-going mission, vision, and strategies are fulfilled within the context of the National Suicide Research Foundation's values as approved by the Board of Directors.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for preparing materials for Board consideration and for preparing materials for any strategic planning process.

When the National Suicide Research Foundation agrees to co-operate formally with other organisations on specific projects or in specific work areas, the agreements are determined by a Memorandum of Understanding/ Service Arrangement or a form of written agreement which is approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **Internal Controls**

The National Suicide Research Foundation conducts an annual Risk Review process that is assessed in detail by the Audit, Finance and Risk Management subgroup with senior management and ultimately reviewed and signed off by the Board of Directors. This process involves identification of the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, an assessment of their impact and likelihood of happening and risk mitigation actions for each.

The quarterly report of the Operations Subgroup to the board contains a section on risk analysis updating the board regarding the status of the most acute risks to the National Suicide Research Foundation and this is reviewed at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **Transparency and Public Accountability**

The Board believes that the National Suicide Research Foundation and all organisations with charitable status must be fully accountable to the general public, providing detailed information on where its funds come from and on what they are spent. The National Suicide Research Foundation's annual Financial Statements when approved by the Board of Directors are submitted to the Companies Registration Office, are published on the organisation's website **www.nsrf.ie**, under the About Us section and are available on the Charities Regulatory Authority website **www.charitiesregulator.ie** 

## **Principles of Good Governance**

We, the Board of Directors and Trustees of National Suicide Research Foundation commit to:

## Principle 1. Advancing the charitable purpose of our organisation

We do this by:

- Being clear about the purpose of our organisation and being able to explain it in simple terms to anyone who asks;
- 1.2 Agreeing an achievable annual plan and ensuring that adequate resources are available to advance the purpose of the organisation;
- 1.3 Reviewing the activities undertaken by the organisation to ensure compliance with its charitable purpose and to ensure that it is providing public benefit.

#### Principle 2. Behaving with integrity

We do this by:

- 2.1 Being honest, fair and independent;
- 2.2 Understanding, declaring and managing conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalties;
- 2.3 Protecting and promoting our organisation's reputation.

#### **Principle 3. Leading our organisation**

We do this by:

- 3.1 Agreeing our vision, purpose and values and making sure that they remain relevant;
- 3.2 Developing, resourcing, monitoring and evaluating a plan to make sure that our organisation achieves its stated purpose;
- 3.3 Managing, supporting and holding to account staff, volunteers and all who act on behalf of the organisation.

## Principle 4. Exercising control over our organisation

We do this by:

- 4.1 Identifying and complying with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements;
- 4.2 Making sure there are appropriate internal financial and management controls;
- 4.3 Identifying major risks for our organisation and deciding ways of managing the risks.

#### **Principle 5. Working effectively**

We do this by:

- 5.1 Making sure that our governing body, individual board members, committees, staff and volunteers understand their: role, legal duties, and delegated responsibility for decision-making;
- 5.2 Making sure that as a board we exercise our collective responsibility through board meetings that are efficient and effective;
- 5.3 Making sure that there is suitable board recruitment, development and retirement processes in place.

## Principle 6. Being transparent and accountable

We do this by:

- 6.1 Identifying those who have a legitimate interest in the work of our organisation (stakeholders) and making sure there is regular and effective communication with them about our organisation;
- 6.2 Responding to stakeholders' questions or views about the work of our organisation and how we run it;
- 6.3 Encouraging and enabling the engagement of those who benefit from our organisation in the planning and decision-making of the organisation.

We confirm that our organisation is committed to the standards outlined in these principles. We commit to reviewing our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle every year.

#### Dr Margaret Kelleher

Director

#### **Eileen Williamson**

Secretary of the Board

Signed by Dr Margaret Kelleher and Eileen Williamson in the presence of, and on behalf of, the Board of Directors of the National Suicide Research Foundation, September 2017.

## **NSRF Strategic Research Clusters**

Across our funding streams, research programmes and projects have been and are being conducted addressing similar topics. Therefore, to improve cohesion, the NSRF have organised our research within **research clusters** addressing specific topics, whereby we can optimise combining relevant specialist expertise, and increase research capacity within strategic research areas.

- 1 Surveillance of Self-Harm, Suicide and Mental Health Problems
- 2 **Programme Evaluation**
- **3** Assessment and Management of Self-Harm and Depression
- 4 Suicide and Self-Harm among Older and Young People
- 5 Clinical Subgroups
- 6 Suicide, Self-harm and Mental Health in the Workplace
- 7 Bereavement following Suicide
- 8 Suicide and the Media
- 9 Restricting access to Lethal Means
- 10 Other



#### **COMPANY MEMBERS**

**Mrs Patricia Behan** Founder, Suicide Aware Ireland

Professor Colin Bradley Professor/Head, Department of General Practice University College Cork

**Professor Patricia Casey** Consultant in Adult and Liaison Psychiatry at the Hermitage Medical Clinic Emeritus Professor of

Psychiatry University College Dublin

#### Professor Eugene Cassidy

Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Cork University Hospital Clinical Professor, University College Cork

**Bishop Paul Colton** Anglican Church of Ireland Bishop, Cork, Cloyne and Ross

**Mr Dave Drohan** Former General Manager, HSE

South (Resigned June 2022)

**Dr Birgit Greiner** Vice-Dean, School of Public Health, University College Cork

**Dr Margaret Kelleher** General Practitioner, Cork Medical Director, National Suicide Research Foundation

**Mr James McCarthy** Partner, Transaction Advisory Services, Ernst & Young Cork

Mr Barry McGale Former Suicide Liaison Officer, Western Health & Social Care Trust Derry Northern Ireland

**Mr Dan Neville** Former Teachtaire Daile Founding Member of Irish Association of Suicidology

**Mr Mark O'Callaghan** Solicitor, Dublin

**Mr Tom O'Dwyer** Former Programme Manager Community Care, HSE South

#### Mr Daniel Flynn

Chartered Clinical Psychologist, Principal Psychology Manager with the HSE and Adjunct Professor at the School of Applied Psychology, UCC (Appointed June 2022)

Dr Karen Galway Senior Lecturer in Mental Health at Queen's University Belfast. (Appointed June 2022) Mr John O'Brien National Traveller Mental Health Service Manager at Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Service (Appointed June 2022)

**Dr Eric Kelleher** Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist CUH and MUH (Appointed June 2022)

**Mr Derek Chambers** Policy Implementation Lead, National Mental Health Operations, Health Service Executive

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Professor Eugene Cassidy Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Cork University Hospital Clinical Professor, University College Cork

**Mr Dave Drohan** Former General Manager, HSE South (Resigned June 2022)

**Dr Margaret Kelleher** General Practitioner, Cork Medical Director, National Suicide Research Foundation

Mr James McCarthy (Chairman) Partner, Transaction Advisory Services, Ernst & Young Cork

**Mr Barry McGale** Former Suicide Liaison Officer at Western Health & Social Care Trust Derry Northern Ireland

**Mr Mark O'Callaghan** Solicitor, Dublin

**Professor Colin Bradley** GP and retired Professor of General Practice in UCC (Appointed June 2022)

Mr Daniel Flynn Chartered Clinical Psychologist, Principal Psychology Manager with the HSE and Adjunct Professor at the School of Applied Psychology, UCC (Appointed June 2022)

Dr Karen Galway

Senior Lecturer in Mental Health at Queen's University Belfast. (Appointed June 2022)

Mr John O'Brien National Traveller Mental Health Service Manager at Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Service (Appointed June 2022)

**Dr Eric Kelleher** Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist CUH and MUH (Appointed June 2022)

#### **PERSONNEL IN 2022**

NOSP Funding Ms Eileen Williamson Chief Executive Officer

Dr Paul Corcoran Head of Research

**Dr Eve Griffin** Principal Investigator Research Fellow

**Dr Mary Joyce** Manager, National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Research Fellow

Dr Katerina Kavalidou Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Caroline Daly Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Clíodhna O'Brien (O'Connor) Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Selena O'Connell Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Shelly Chakraborty Data Analyst

Dr Mallorie Leduc Post-Doctoral Researcher

**Ms Eileen Hegarty** Operations Manager (Finance)

**Mr Niall McTernan** Executive Research & Operations Manager

**Ms Margaret Kenneally** Research Assistant Administration

**Ms Doireann Ni Dhalaigh** Research Support Officer (Resigned September 2022)

**Ms Georgie O'Sullivan** Data Manager, National Self-Harm Registry Ireland

**Ms Sarah Nicholson** (O'Meara) Data Protection Officer/ Quality Manager

**Mr Pawel Hursztyn** Research Support Officer

**Mr Leon Fan** IT Support Officer

**Ms Nora Conway** Research Officer (Resigned June 2022)

HRB Research Leaders Award Funding

**Professor Ella Arensman** Research Professor, Chief Scientist

**Ms Karen Mulcahy** Research Administrator

Dr Isabela Troya Bermeo Post-Doctoral Researcher Dr Anvar Sadath Post-Doctoral Researcher

**Ms Ruth Benson** PhD Scholar HRB RLA (Resigned October 2022)

Eunice T. Philip Research Assistant

HRB Emerging Investigators Award **Dr Eve Griffin** 

Research Fellow

Dr Selena O'Connell Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Grace Cully Post-Doctoral Researcher

HRB Applied Research into Policy and Practice

**Dr Elaine Mc Mahon** Research Fellow

H2020 MENTUPP

Dr Mallorie Leduc Post-Doctoral Researcher

**Ms Doireann Ni Dhalaigh** Research Support Officer (Resigned September 2022)

H2020 MHAINTAIN Ms Margaret Kenneally Administration Programme Co-ordinator

#### EAAD-Best

Dr Mallorie Leduc Post-Doctoral Researcher

**Dr Grace Cully** Post-Doctoral Researcher (Resigned November 2022)

Ms Almas Khan Research Officer

Dr Anvar Sadath Post-Doctoral Researcher

#### WHOCC - PAHO

Ms Ruth Benson Research Officer (Resigned October 2022)

Dr Isabela Troya Post-Doctoral Researcher

HEA – C-SSHRI Ms Fenella Ryan Research Officer

National DBT Project Ms Louise Dunne

Administrator
Ms Emily Boylan

Research Officer

Ms Stephanie Wall Research Officer

Dr Mary Joyce Consultant

#### DATA REGISTRATION OFFICERS

#### **HSE West Region**

**Eileen Quinn** Letterkenny University Hospital

Ailish Melia Sligo University Hospital

Mary Nix, Helen Mellody & Sandra Joyce Portiuncula University Hospital/ University Hospital Galway

James Camien McGuiggan & Maureen Mahony Mayo University Hospital

Catherine Murphy University Hospital Limerick/ Ennis Hospital

#### **HSE South Region**

Karen Twomey University Hospital Kerry

Una Walsh & Ursula Burke Bantry General Hospital/ Cork University Hospital/ Mercy University Hospital, Cork

#### Tricia Shannon University Hospital Waterford/ Wexford General Hospital/ St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny/ South Tipperary General Hospital

#### HSE Dublin/ North East Region

#### Agnieszka Biedrycka & James Camien McGuiggan

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin

#### Alan Boon

Beaumont Hospital/ Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown/ Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street

#### **Rita Cullivan**

Cavan General Hospital/ Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda/ Our Lady's Hospital, Navan

#### Ciaran Cluskey-Kelly

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda



#### HSE Dublin/ Midlands Region

#### **Diarmuid O'Connor**

Midland Regional Hospitals (Mullingar, Portlaoise, Tullamore)/ Naas General Hospital/ Tallaght University Hospital/ Children's Health Ireland at Tallaght University Hospital

#### Ciarán Cluskey-Kelly

St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire/ St James's Hospital, Dublin

#### James Camien McGuiggan St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin

**Laura Shehan** St James's Hospital, Dublin

#### Edel McCarra & Alan Boon Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

22

## **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**

In 2022, NSRF launched a Gender Equality Plan which is available on our website. We continue to explore the importance and role of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in our organisation. This year has been another stepping stone in our journey toward creating a more diverse, equal and inclusive organisation.

The NSRF is committed to the integration of gender in Research, Teaching and Funding. One example is via the Irish Suicide Bereavement Survey (page 41), where examining gender-related differences in suicide bereavement is a key research aim. In this study, researchers undertook a media campaign to increase representation from men in particular, who are often under-represented in this type of research (see media articles below). This resulted in 27% of the participants of the survey being male.

#### https://www.echolive.ie/corkviews/arid-40791567.html

#### https://www.farmersjournal.ie/call-for-men-affectedby-suicide-to-help-with-research-671936

#### Key activities in 2022

- NSRF management and staff attended UCC training on Advancing Gender Equality and Integrating a Diversity and Inclusion Approach to Research, led by Avril Hutch on 26th October 2022. A recording of this training was distributed to staff members.
- Review of NSRF Employee Handbook undertaken by Emma O'Sullivan, Governance Specialist, in September 2022. A copy of the Employee Handbook and relevant documents were distributed to staff and board members in 2023. Review of recruitment from an EDI perspective in progress.
- As evidenced below, the NSRF offers part-time flexible roles where possible.
- The NSRF is in a strategic collaboration with UCC and as a result staff can avail of all UCC based gender equality groups and communities, training, and courses.



## Strategic Research Cluster One

### Surveillance of Self-Harm, Suicide & Mental Health Problems

- National Self-Harm Registry Ireland
- Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm
- The Self-Harm Assessment and Data Analysis (SADA) Project
- Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory (SSHO)
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention

### **National Self-Harm Registry Ireland**

The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI) is a national surveillance system which records information on hospital-presenting self-harm at Emergency Departments in hospitals across Ireland. The NSHRI was established in 2000 by the National Suicide Research Foundation at the request of the Department of Health and Children. In 2006, the NSHRI obtained national coverage of all general and paediatric hospital Emergency Departments in the Republic of Ireland. The NSHRI is the world's first national registry of cases of intentional self-harm presenting to hospital Emergency Departments. Each year, the NSHRI publishes a report on its findings. Annual reports can be accessed here: **www.nsrf.ie/reports**. Findings on data from the NSHRI are also published in peer-reviewed journal articles which can be found on our website.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To establish the extent and nature of hospitalpresenting self-harm in Ireland
- To monitor trends over time and by area
- To contribute to policy and development in the area of suicidal behaviour
- To help the progress of research and prevention on this topic.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Data Briefing. Hospital-presenting self-harm during January-June 2021. November 2022
- Publication of National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Annual Report 2020. November 2022.
- Establishment of National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Advisory Panel.
- Meetings of Data Registration Officers in March, June and November 2022.

#### Personnel Involved:

Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Mary Joyce, Dr Caroline Daly, Dr Shelly Chakraborty, Georgie O'Sullivan, Sarah Nicholson, Pawel Hursztyn, Leon Fan, Eileen Hegarty, Margaret Kenneally, Eileen Williamson, Ella Arensman.

#### **Data Registration Officers:**

Liisa Aula, Agnieszka Biedrycka, Alan Boon, Ursula Burke, James Camien McGuiggan, Ciaran Cluskey-Kelly, Rita Cullivan, Sandra Joyce, Maureen Mahony, Ailish Melia, Helen Mellody, Catherine Murphy, Mary Nix, Diarmuid O'Connor, Eileen Quinn, Tricia Shannon, Laura Shehan, Karen Twomey, Una Walsh.

#### Publications in 2022:

• McEvoy DM, Clarke M & **Joyce M**. Time of self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments: a scoping review. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol* 58, 335–354

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

• McMahon E and Joyce M. Self-Harm in Young People in Ireland: An Update. NOSP Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention workshop. November 29th, 2022.

## Projects affiliated with the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland:

- Providing Improved Care for Self-harm: A mixedmethods study of intervention, implementation and economic outcomes from a national clinical programme (PRISM; HRB EIA) – see page 52
- Investigating the iceberg of self-harm and suicide in children, adolescents and young adults: a multimethod study of predictors of onset, escalation and mortality (HRB ARPP) – see page 56

#### Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm

The Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm (NIRSH) was established by the Public Health Agency (PHA). Under the Northern Ireland Suicide Strategy "Protect Life – A Shared Vision", the NIRSH was first piloted in the Western Health & Social Care Trust area in 2007. Building upon the success of this pilot project, the NIRSH was implemented across all five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. This extended the Registry to all 12 acute hospitals with effect from 1st April 2012. The National Suicide Research Foundation provides statistical analysis, support and independent verification of data recorded by the NIRSH.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To establish the extent and nature of hospitalpresenting self-harm and suicidal ideation in Northern Ireland.
- To monitor trends and patterns over time and by area.
- To inform the PHA and the Department of Health about the development of healthcare services and the provision of supports.
- To help the progress of research and prevention on selfharm and suicidal ideation.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Data pertaining to a 6-month timeframe of 2020/21 were processed and analysed. These data informed the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) summary reports for the same timeframe.
- Data pertaining to a 9-month timeframe of 2021/22 were processed and analysed. These data informed the DHSSPS summary reports for the same timeframe.

- A Masterfile with data from April 2012 to September 2020 was created and disseminated to the PHA for research purposes by Queen's University Belfast.
- Data were processed and analysed according to Local Government Districts of Northern Ireland and provided in a summary report.
- Data were processed and analysed for inclusion in the PHA Director of Public Health Core tables.
- Statistical verification and quality assurance checks were completed on six interim reports (HSCT and regional area) and for the infographic of annual 2020/21 data.

#### Personnel Involved:

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Caroline Daly, Dr Mary Joyce, Dr Shelly Chakraborty, Dr Paul Corcoran.

Public Health Agency: Ms Linda Cassidy.

#### Improving surveillance and monitoring of self-harm in Irish Prisons: The Self-harm Assessment and Data Analysis (SADA) Project

As part of its role in Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Suicide Reduction Strategy, The Irish Prison Service has committed to reviewing, analysing and learning from each episode of self-harm within the prison estate. The SADA project provides robust information relating to the incidence and profile of self-harm within prison settings, identifies individualand context-specific risk factors relating to self-harm, as well as examining patterns of repeat self-harm. Such information can be used as an evidence base to inform the identification and management of prisoners who engage in or who are atrisk for self-harm, and to develop effective prevention initiatives. Findings from this project are disseminated back to the Irish Prison Service National Suicide and Harm Prevention Steering Group (NSHPG) on a yearly basis. The National Suicide Research Foundation coordinates the data management, data analysis and reporting of findings from the SADA Project.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To collate, enter and analyse data from the Irish Prison Service's Self-Harm/Suicide Surveillance & Monitoring System.
- To report on yearly trends and prepare papers for peer review.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Peer reviewed paper based on three years of data published in the International Journal of Prisoner Health (Q1 2023)
- Two-year summary report for 2020 & 2021 (Q3 2023)
- Preparation of a peer reviewed paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on self-harm (Q4 2023)
- Preparation of a form on Castor (new software) based on the prisons dataset to improve the data collection process (Ongoing)
- Development of a sustainability plan (with IPS and NOSP) (Ongoing)

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Mr Niall McTernan, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Grace Cully

Irish Prison Service: Ms Sarah Hume, Mr Enda Kelly

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Dr Gemma Cox.

#### Publications in 2022:

 McTernan N, Griffin E, Cully G, Kelly E, Hume S, Corcoran P (2023) The incidence and profile of selfharm among prisoners: Findings from the Self-Harm Assessment and Data Analysis Project 2017-2019. International Journal of Prisoner Health (In print)

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

• McTernan N & Corcoran P. Characteristics and profile of prisoners who engage in self-harm: Findings from the Self-Harm Assessment and Data Analysis Project 2017-2019. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.

## The Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory (SSHO)

The SSHO was developed to obtain minimal data on suspected suicide cases from the Coroners of County Cork and the HSE Patient Mortality Register in real-time for early identification of emerging suicide clusters, new methods amenable to means restriction measures and locations of concern, as well as timely responses to bereaved individuals, evidence-based policy planning and targeted service provision.

It fulfils national and international objectives based on the need for real-time suicide data, including Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024 'Connecting for Life', objective 7.2: Improve access to timely and high-quality data on suicide; the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre work programme agreement to facilitate real-time suicide data and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 2.4 to reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention, treatment and promotion of mental health and well-being by 2030, of which suicide mortality rate is an indicator.

#### **Project Aims:**

- Increase capacity for early intervention when emerging suicide clusters are identified.
- Facilitate activation of local response plans to emerging clusters.
- Assist with optimising resource allocation and location by means of spatial analysis.
- Inform health service responses in geographical areas with recurring clusters.
- Verify anecdotal evidence of emerging trends or clusters.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Ongoing data collection in County Cork and County Kerry.
- Four peer reviewed publications (included below).
- SSHO data was used to inform briefings requested by the Department of Health and the HSE NOSP on deaths by suspected suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SSHO data were used in multiple instances to validate unverified media reports of contagion.
- SSHO facilitated the implementation of suicide prevention measures aimed at restricting access to means at locations where individuals frequently take their lives.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Ms. Ruth Benson, Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran, Ms Eileen Williamson, Mr Niall McTernan

National Centre for Geocomputation: Prof. Chris Brunsdon, Prof. Jan Rigby

Health Service Executive: Mr. Martin Ryan, Mr. Donagh Hennebry

The Coroners' Society of Ireland: Mr. Frank O'Connell, Dr. Michael Kennedy, Ms. Helen Lucey, Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan-Quilter

University College Cork: Prof. Colin Bradley, Prof Eugene Cassidy

#### Publications in 2022:

- Benson R, Rigby J, Brunsdon C, Cully G, Too LS, Arensman E. Quantitative Methods to Detect Suicide and Self-Harm Clusters: A Systematic Review. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Apr 27;19(9):5313.
- Benson R, Rigby J, Brunsdon C, Corcoran P, Dodd P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Colchester D, Hawton K, Lascelles K, de Leo D, Crompton D, Kolves K, Leske S, Dwyer J, Pirkis J, Shave R, Fortune S, Arensman E. Realtime suicide surveillance: comparison of international surveillance systems and recommended best practice. Archives of Suicide Research. 2022, Oct 13:1-27.
- Benson R, Brunsdon C, Rigby J, Corcoran P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Dodd P, Hennebry D, Arensman E. The development and validation of a dashboard prototype for real-time suicide mortality data. Frontiers in Digital Health. 2022 Aug 20;4.
- Benson R, Brunsdon C, Rigby J, Corcoran P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Dodd P, Hennebry D, Arensman E. Real-time suicide surveillance supporting policy and practice. Global Mental Health. 2022 Aug 12:1-5.

- Arensman E, Benson R. Developing and implementing a real-time suicide surveillance system facilitating early identification of suicide contagion and clustering. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.
- Benson R, Arensman E. Facilitation of access to realtime suicide data to improve responding to suicide clusters and contagion. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.
- Benson R. Trends in real-time suicide data during COVID-19: Outcomes of the Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory at the C-SSHRI Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop, University College Cork, Cork (virtual).
- **Benson R**, Brunsdon C, Rigby J, Corcoran P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Dodd P, Hennebry D, Arensman E. The development & implementation of a real-time surveillance system in South-West Ireland. From Molecules to People Conference, University College Cork, Cork.
- In October 2022, Ruth Benson successfully passed her PhD Viva based on the dissertation: "Real-time surveillance for evidence-based responses to suicide contagion and clustering".

## World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention

In December 2015, the NSRF was initially designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention. Following a rigorous evaluation process in 2019, the redesignation was approved for a further four years. The remit of WHO Collaborating centres is to conduct research and evaluation, and provide technical guidance to the WHO. The aim is to enhance countries' capacity to develop and implement national policies and plans in line with the 2013-2020 global mental health action plan. Mental health promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery services improved through advocacy, better guidance and tools on integrated mental health service are stated WHO outputs.

#### **Project Aims:**

- Development and implementation of surveillance systems of suicide and suicide attempts
- Implementation and evaluation of national suicide prevention programmes
- Training and education in suicide and suicide attempt surveillance, research and prevention
- Increasing awareness of suicide prevention among governments, stakeholders and the general public.
- Providing advice and sharing resources in suicide research and prevention with countries globally.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- In 2022, the NSRF provided guidance on developing and implementing standard operation procedures for self-harm surveillance in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad Tobago in collaboration with the PAHO/ WHO Office in Washington, and training to staff involved in data collection, the importance of using consistent definitions for surveillance systems, the challenges to setting uniform definitions and improving standardization of surveillance implementation within and between countries.
  - LOA agreed for phase 2: February-November 2022.
  - Seven working group meetings with partners in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad Tobago held between April and December
  - Training on setting up a surveillance system held on January 20th, January 26th and September 1st
  - A scoping review was conducted in relation to demographic and socio-economic characteristics, and features of the existing self-harm surveillance approaches in general hospital settings in the pilot regions in Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago
  - Report on 2021-2022 PAHO activities submitted in December 2022
- In 2022, the NSRF supported the development of the second national suicide prevention plan for Guyana, utilizing the WHO comprehensive guidance LIVE LIFE, that focuses on strategies that are feasible, practical, and based on evidence. Consultation plan for Q1 2023 agreed
- At the request of WHO, the NSRF contributed to an expert discussion on suicide prevention in Armenia on November 28th.
- At the request of WHO, in December 2022, the NSRF completed a review of the draft National Suicide Prevention Strategy for Nepal.

- At the request of the WHO, the NSRF contributed to the evidence base and development of the WHO Mental Health at work guidelines published on September 28th. Prof Arensman is a member of the WHO External Review Group
- The NSRF contributed to a meeting with Dr Fahmy Hanna and Dr Melita Murko on mental health resources to support refugees from Ukraine.
- NSRF attended a meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centres in Copenhagen on August 23rd. NSRF areas of expertise in relation to key priority areas within the European Framework for action on Mental Health 2021-2025 were discussed.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Eve Griffin, Ms Eileen Williamson, Mr Niall McTernan, Ms Ruth Benson, Dr Isabela Troya, Ms Eileen Hegarty.

#### Publications in 2022:

• At the request of the WHO, the NSRF contributed to the evidence base and development of the WHO Mental Health at work guidelines published on September 28th.

- Arensman E, Benson R. Training workshop on setting up a surveillance system for hospital presenting self-harm in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad Tobago. January 20th, 2022. September 1st
- Arensman E, Benson R. Training workshop on setting up a surveillance system for hospital presenting self-harm in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad Tobago. January 26th, 2022
- Arensman E, Troya IM. Training workshop on setting up a surveillance system for hospital presenting self-harm in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad Tobago. September 1st, 2022
- Arensman E. Frameworks and resources to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of national suicide prevention strategies. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022
- The NSRF presented on a range of topics at the 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour from August 24th-27th, including a Round-Table Discussion on the Importance of National Plans for Suicide Prevention with Dr Ledia Lazeri, Elena Shevkun and other international experts in suicide prevention.

## Strategic Research Cluster Two

### **Programme Evaluation**

- National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Training Team
- Open Dialogue Project
- An analysis of '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service anonymised texter data
- HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths in South East Community Healthcare: A review of the operation of the service
- Evaluation of the CAMS (The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality) in CHO7

## National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Training Team

The NSRF collaborates with the HSE on the implementation and evaluation of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) in both adult and child and adolescent mental health services across Ireland. In the first phase of this work, the National DBT Project Ireland was established in 2013 through funding provided by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention. Following the completion of an extensive evaluation, a HSE National DBT Training team, funded by the Department of Health and HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention, was established in 2021 to deliver a national DBT training programme. A comprehensive evaluation of the newly proposed DBT training model is being undertaken.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To assess the acceptability of the newly proposed DBT training model.
- To assess the quality and effectiveness of interventions delivered by clinicians who train via the new DBT training model.
- To measure attitudinal change of clinicians who partake in this training towards the target client population(s).
- To assess the cost-effectiveness of the training model.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Submitted applications to 11 Clinical Research Ethics Committees for the three sub-studies of this overall evaluation. Approval received from all committees who have reviewed applications.
- Data collection commenced with participants for the study which will assess attitudinal change of clinicians.
- Data collection commenced with participants for study which will assess the effectiveness of interventions delivered by clinicians trained via this DBT training model.
- Databases prepared and analyses on baseline data commenced.
- Preparation of manuscript on study protocol prepared for peer-reviewed publication.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

Ms Louise Dunne, Ms Stephanie Wall, Ms Emily Boylan, Dr Mary Joyce.

- Kells, M. Challenges to team survivability following Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Training: proposal of a modular training approach. 6th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorders, October 10th -12th ,2022.
- Wall, S. Evaluating clinician attitudes towards individuals with BPD and acceptability of an alternative DBT training model. 6th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorders, October 10th -12th ,2022.
- **Boylan, E**. Evaluating the effectiveness of Standard DBT Programmes delivered by clinicians who train via a modular DBT training model. October 10th -12th ,2022.
- Joyce, M. An evaluation of DBT Skills Training programmes delivered by clinicians who train via a modular DBT training model. 6th International Congress on Borderline Personality Disorders, October 10th -12th ,2022.

## **Open Dialogue Project**

The HSE commissioned the NSRF to conduct an independent appraisal of the Open Dialogue initiative in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. The study seeks to evaluate and understand the experience of Open Dialogue (OD) as a clinical pathway, rolled out as part of West Cork Mental Health Services to treat people suffering from acute mental illness. The project seeks to evaluate both the impact and implementation of OD, from multiple points; including clients' experiences of their care process, that of their social network, and professional team in comparison to treatment as usual (TAU). Both quantitative and qualitative analysis will be used to ascertain how OD as a clinical pathway was experienced. The results of the study will be used to improve the quality and efficiency of future patient care and clinical practice. The key findings of the studies will be reported back to the HSE, and other relevant stakeholders, and findings prepared for publishing in peer-related journals.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To evaluate Open Dialogue as a clinic-based intervention in comparison to Treatment as Usual.
- Specific aims include exploring participants' impressions and perceptions of the pathway, with regard to its effectiveness, its limitations and its impact on practice.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

• Completion of online Surveys among Mental Health Professionals / Service Users/ Service Users Family/ Social Networks.

- Online focus group interviews completed.
- Data entry and data analysis completed.
- Summary Report completed for the HSE, and other relevant stakeholders, and findings prepared for publishing in peer-related journals.

#### **Key Personnel:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Prof Ella Arensman, Ms Nora Conway, Ms Ruth Benson, Ms Eileen Williamson.

Health Service Executive: Dr Iseult Twamley, Dr Edgar Lonergan, Dr Maria Dempsey.

#### An analysis of '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service anonymised texter data

This study is a collaboration between the National Suicide Research Foundation and 50808. The study analysed pre-existing and routinely collected aggregate data associated with individual text conversations over a 12-month period: 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021, including; service platform data (time/date), conversation issue tags (as recorded by helpline volunteers), and demographic classifiers (as self-reported by texters in the voluntary post-conversation survey).

Ethical approval was granted by the UCC Social Research Ethics Committee in March 2021.

This is the first such analysis of aggregate texter data from 50808 and the findings may be used to shape future service delivery, to inform public policy and to facilitate a deeper understanding of crisis support need in Ireland and the role technology can play.

#### **Project Aims:**

- Explore the profile of texters in terms of demographics, time and date of text conversations and presenting issues.
- Explore the connection between presenting issues and engagement of the 'active rescue' protocol.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

• Summary report for 2021 finalised

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Ms Fenella Ryan, Mr Niall McTernan, Dr Paul Corcoran

50808: Ian Power, Simon Jones

- **Ryan F**. Advancing Suicide Prevention in Ireland; An Analysis of the '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.
- Power I, **Ryan F**. Advancing Suicide Prevention in Ireland; An Analysis of the '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service. 6th International Association for Youth Mental Health Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark. September 30th, 2022.

#### HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths in South East Community Healthcare: A review of the operation of the service

The HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths in the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) has provided counselling support to people bereaved by suicide and other traumatic deaths, including homicide, road traffic accidents, industrial, domestic and agricultural accidents and drowning, since 2006. This service allows health professionals to refer individuals, aged 16 years or over, to receive therapeutic interventions from trained Counsellors working in the area. The service has been in operation for more than 16 years but this is the first formal review of the service to date.

#### **Project Aims:**

The aim of this project was to undertake an evaluation of the service. The specific objectives were to evaluate the operation of the service in terms of referrals and clients, pathways and onward referrals and to undertake a cost-benefit analysis.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- A project report was compiled covering the following project components: a detailed description of the service; a review of an anonymised referral database held by the service; surveys of healthcare professionals in the service region and of Counsellors contracted to the service; along with a cost-benefit analysis of the service (Q2 2022).
- Cost-benefit analysis prepared for report and peerreview publication (Q3 2022).
- Submission of project report, to be published in Q1 2023.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Selena O'Connell, Prof Ella Arensman and Dr Paul Corcoran.

University College Cork: Dr Brendan McElroy Health Service Executive: Tracy Nugent and Mary Weldon.

#### Publications in 2022:

• Griffin E, O'Connell S. HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths in South East Community Healthcare: A Review of the Operation of the Service. National Suicide Research Foundation (February 2023).

## **Evaluation of the CAMS (The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality) in CHO7**

Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) is a suicide-specific therapeutic framework for suicide-specific assessment and the treatment of suicidal risk for patients. Central to CAMS is an empathic and collaborative treatment-planning approach to reducing suicide risk.

The purpose of the present study is two-fold, including an evaluation of the training and delivery of CAMS training from the perspective of clinicians (**Clinician Evaluation**) and an evaluation of patient outcomes following receipt of the CAMS treatment (**Patient Evaluation**).

The outcomes of this study will inform the effectiveness and provision of CAMS within the region and will be incorporated into a report for colleagues within CHO7 and the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP).

#### **Project Aims:**

The objectives of Clinician Evaluation are:

- To assess changes in the attitudes and confidence among clinicians after the CAMS training and framework delivery.
- To assess clinicians' levels of satisfaction, acceptability, appropriateness, and feasibility of the CAMS after the delivery of the training and framework.

The objectives of the Patient Evaluation are:

- To investigate whether CAMS reduces suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviours in patients.
- To identify if CAMS reduces auxiliary mental health outcomes including psychological pain, stress, agitation, hopelessness, and self-hate.

- To review the follow-up care of patient's post-treatment.
- To examine if CAMS results in increased engagement with services, reduced inpatient days etc.

#### **Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022**

- Evaluation Design completed (November 2022).
- Ethics approval submission (December 2022).
- Obtain Ethical Approval in Q1 2023. Initiate Evaluation in Q3 2023.

#### **Personnel Involved**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Dr Caroline Daly, Dr Eve Griffin.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Prof Philip Dodd, Ailish O'Neill, Sarah Woods.

## Strategic Research Cluster Three

### Assessment and Management of Self-Harm and Depression

- Emerging Investigators Award (PRISM)
- Self-Harm Assessment and Management programme for General Hospitals (SAMAGH)
- EAAD-Best

# PRoviding Improved care for Self-harM: a mixed-methods study of intervention, economic and implementation outcomes from a national clinical programme – PRISM

In 2019, funding was awarded as part of the Health Research Board's Emerging Investigators Award programme, for a four-year programme to examine outcomes for individuals who present to hospital as a result of self-harm. The project is a collaboration between University College Cork, National Suicide Research Foundation and the Irish Health Service Executive. The project commenced in September 2019, and will run until March 2024

This project will maximise the use of routinely available national data. A mixed methods approach will deliver actionable findings which will contribute to optimising services and outcomes for individuals who engage in self-harm, ultimately reducing deaths by suicide and other external causes. Findings will directly inform service delivery and contribute to national policy.

#### **Project Aims:**

- Examine the clinical management of self-harm and its impact on risk of repeat self-harm, suicide and premature mortality.
- Examine the impact of the National Clinical Programme for Self-harm and Suicide-related Ideation (NCPSHI) on patient outcomes, processes of care and economic savings.
- Identify the determinants contributing to the implementation of this Clinical Programme across Irish hospitals.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- National linkage study undertaken to establish the risk of suicide following hospital-presenting self-harm, via the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI) and the Irish Probable Suicide Deaths Study (IPSDS).
- Evaluation of the impact of the NCPSHI on patient outcomes and provision of care conducted.
- Commencement of study to examine the implementation of the NCPSHI across hospitals (September 2022 onwards).
- Symposium presentation at International Congress of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (May 2022, Edinburgh).
- Oral presentation at the European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour Conference (August 2022, Copenhagen).
- Presentation of findings to the NCPSHI staff at Educational Seminar, December 2022.

#### Personnel Involved:

Principal investigator: Dr Eve Griffin

Post-doctoral Researchers: Dr Grace Cully, Dr Selena O'Connell

Co-applicants: Dr Paul Corcoran; Prof Ella Arensman; Prof Ivan J Perry; Dr Sheena McHugh; Dr Anne Jeffers; Prof David Gunnell.

#### Publications in 2022:

• Griffin E. & Arensman E. (2022). Intimate partner violence: breaking the silence. The Lancet Psychiatry, 9(7), 530–531.

- **Griffin E**. Evaluation of the impact and implementation of a national clinical programme for the management of self-harm in hospital emergency departments. Royal College of Psychiatrists International Congress 2022, Edinburgh, Scotland. June 21st, 2022.
- **Griffin E**. Evaluation of the impact and implementation of a national clinical programme for the management of self-harm in hospital emergency departments. 19th European Symposium for Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.
- **Cully G**. Evaluation of a national clinical programme for the management of self-harm in hospital emergency departments: PRISM. National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Meeting of the Data Registration Officers, Cork, Ireland. March 24th, 2022.
- **Griffin E**. Evaluation of a national clinical programme for the management of self-harm in hospital emergency departments: PRISM. National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm and Suicide-related Ideation Education session, December 7th, 2022.

## Self-Harm Assessment and Management programme for General Hospitals (SAMAGH)

Evidence-based training in the management of self-harm for mental health professionals is limited. SAMAGH is an advanced training programme to improve assessment, management, and support for self-harm patients, with a specific focus on high-risk self-harm and people engaging in frequent self-harm repetition. SAMAGH was developed based on information obtained from two previous studies on specific predictive factors for repeated self-harm and suicide among high-risk groups: SSIS-ACE (Psychological, psychiatric and work-related risk factors associated with suicide in Ireland: a case control study) and IMPRESS (Improving Prediction and Risk Assessment of Self-harm and Suicide: an in-depth interview study). It includes comprehensive E-learning and simulation training on biopsychosocial assessment and management for high-risk self-ham and major self-harm repeaters. SAMAGH consists of two training components. The first part is an E-Learning programme, where through 8 comprehensive modules, participants will extend their knowledge of self-harm and suicide, focusing on delivering evidence-based treatments for all self-harm patients, but with a focus on the two previously mentioned high-risk groups. The second part of the programme is a two-day face-to-face (or virtual) intensive training course, including an innovative simulation training. The SAMAGH training has been developed by Prof Ella Arensman and an interdisciplinary team. SAMAGH has been CPD accredited by the Irish College of Psychiatrists and An Bord Altranais. The evaluation component of SAMAGH includes a process and outcome evaluation, using pre-test and post-test design and focus group discussion with the participants.

#### **Project Aims:**

The SAMAGH evaluation study will address specific objectives:

- Assess the impact of the SAMAGH training for mental health professionals in hospital settings on overall repeated self-harm rates as well as in the two subgroups of high-risk patients.
- Determine whether the SAMAGH training is associated with increased mental health assessments being conducted with self-harm patients.
- Conduct a process evaluation to understand the feasibility of implementing the SAMAGH training and its effect on health professionals' knowledge, attitudes and skills in assessment and management of self-harm patients.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

SAMAGH is a three-phase study, which includes development, implementation, and evaluation. Currently, the study is in its implementation phase. Between 2019 and 2022, SAMAGH has been delivered to over 60 healthcare professionals in Ireland, including Clinical Nurse Specialists, Non-consultant hospital doctors.

- Delivery of SAMAGH Training to 7 representative groups of healthcare professionals: Achieved
- Successful funding application NOSP research grants 2021.
- Data Entry and Data Analysis of the SAMAGH Process Evaluation: Ongoing
- Service Evaluation: Due to Covid-19, there were delays in availing the required data from the public hospitals in Ireland.
- Completion of upscaling the SAMAGH training programme for GPs.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation and University College Cork: Prof Ella Arensman, Dr M. Isabela Troya, Sarah Nicholson, Dr Anvar Sadath, Dr Grace Cully, Ruth Benson, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Eve Griffin, Eileen Williamson, Almas Khan, Dr Ana Paula Ramos Costa, Dr Frances Shiely, Prof John Browne.

Health Research Board Clinical Research Facility-Cork, University College Cork: Prof Joe Eustace

Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin: Dr Anne Jeffers

Maynooth University: Prof Jan Rigby

Cork University Hospital: Prof Eugene Cassidy.

#### Publications in 2022:

- Evaluating the Self-harm Assessment and Management for General Hospitals (SAMAGH) Training Programme: findings from a focus group study – Manuscript completed.
- Progress Report for the National Office for Suicide Prevention, December 2022.

#### Workshops/activities related to project in 2022:

- SAMAGH training programme delivered for mental health professionals in the UCC ASSERT Centre on 24-25th February 2022.
- SAMAGH training programme delivered for mental health professionals, in the Pillar Centre for Transformative Healthcare, Mater Misericordia University Hospital, on 20th-21st September 2022.

#### EAAD-Best: Adapting and Implementing EAAD's Best Practice Model to Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe

The EAAD-Best project is funded within the Annual Work Programme 2020 of the 3rd EU Health Programme (HP-PJ-2020). The EAAD-Best project involves i) transferring the community-based 4-level intervention concept of the European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD) to new regions and countries in Europe, and ii) promoting the international uptake of the iFightDepression®-tool, an internet-based self-management tool for patients with depression. The EAAD-Best project is a collaboration of organisations from 10 European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Spain). In Ireland, the EAAD 4-level intervention will be transferred to three new regions and the iFightDepression®-tool will be promoted for uptake nationally.

#### **Project Aims:**

EAAD has two overarching aims:

- To improve care for patients with depression
- To prevent suicidal behavior in Europe
- Additional objectives of EAAD-Best include reducing stigma, improving health literacy, and encouraging help-seeking behavior.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- All materials across the 4-level approach have been updated and adapted. This includes GP and community facilitators training materials. English version of the EAAD animated video was adapted and recorded with an Irish-accented voiceover, emergency support cards, and community awareness materials.
- Ethics approval was received for the Cork Kerry region from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Cork Teaching Hospitals (CREC) on 12th July 2022.
- A meeting with the key policymakers of HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention was held on 1st December 2022 to ensure support and sustainability for the project.
- A successful launch seminar was organised in conjunction with self- harm awareness day on the 1st of March in 2023.

#### Personnel Involved:

National Suicide Research Foundation: Prof Ella Arensman, Ms Eileen Williamson, Dr Grace Cully, Mr Niall McTernan, Dr Mallorie Leduc, Ms Almas Khan, Ms Eileen Hegarty, Dr Anvar Sadath Vakkayil, Dr Aileen Callanan

- EAAD- Best presentation at Healthy Cities event
- EAAD- Best Kick-off seminar- Preventing suicide and self-harm via improving awareness and care for people with depression.
- Implementation of the EAAD four-level approach within the context of a national suicide prevention strategy at 19th European Symposium on suicide and suicidal behaviour
- EAAD-Best: Perspectives on Early Identification of Suicide Risk and Prevention: Public Event and Demonstration Workshop on World Suicide Prevention Day. 2022
- EAAD- Best presentation at Green Ribbon Ireland campaign, Mallow
- EAAD-Best Adapting and Implementing EAAD's Best Practice Model to Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe Online meeting with the Irish Prison officers.
- EAAD-Best Adapting and Implementing EAAD's Best Practice Model to Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe. Online meeting with the key policymakers of NOSP. December 1, 2022.

## Strategic Research Cluster Four

### Suicide and Self-Harm among Young and Older People

- Examining individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm and suicidality in older adults: improving risk assessment and management (SHOAR)
- Applying Research into Policy and Practice Award Youth self-harm and suicide -Predictors of onset, escalation and premature mortality

# Examining individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm and suicidality in older adults: improving risk assessment and management (SHOAR)

SHOAR is a two-year study led by Dr Isabela Troya, funded by a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship which commenced in May 2022. Self-harm, the act of harming oneself, is an increasing societal concern worldwide. Annually in Ireland, more than 400 people die by suicide and a further 12,500 present to hospital following self-harm, of which approximately 15% are older adults (aged >60). Worldwide, the age group that is most likely to die by suicide is represented by older adults, in particular men. In Ireland, there is limited research examining self-harm and suicide in older adults. Specifically, the profile of older adults who self-harm is not well known, or what factors affect older people who self-harm.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To examine individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm in older adults to improve risk assessment and management of self-harm in later life.
- To gain a better understanding of self-harm in older adults, and to inform policy, patients, clinicians, and the Irish healthcare system, this study will examine the factors that lead to older adults hurting themselves. This is a multi-method study, using two large national databases (National Self-Harm Registry Ireland from the National Suicide Research Foundation and The Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing from Trinity College Dublin) combined with primary research (interviewing health practitioners who support older adults).

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

SHOAR started in Quarter 2 of 2022.

- Preparation of peer reviewed paper based on findings from the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and self-harm rates in older adults (To be submitted Q3 2023).
- Preparation of peer reviewed paper based on qualitative data of healthcare professionals supporting older adults who self-harm (To be submitted Q4 2023).
- Preparation of a peer reviewed paper based on data from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, examining wish to die and anxiety and depression in older adults (To be submitted Q3 2024).

#### **Personnel Involved:**

Principal Investigator: Dr Isabela Troya

Members of the Steering Group

-NSRF: Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Eve Griffin

-External: Dr Robert Briggs and Dr Mark Ward (Trinity College Dublin), Prof Eugene Cassidy and Dr Caoimhe Ni Lonergan (Cork University Hospital), Sally Ann Lovejoy and Prof Vincent Russell (National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm, HSE), Dr James O'Mahony (School of Nursing, UCC), Dr Faraz Mughal (Keele University).
## Youth self-harm and suicide - Predictors of onset, escalation and premature mortality

This study investigates the iceberg model of self-harm and suicide in children, adolescents and young adults. This research programme employs multiple methods to examine predictors of onset and escalation of self-harm and premature mortality. Dr Elaine McMahon is funded to carry out this research as part of the Health Research Board Applying Research into Policy and Practice programme (2019-2024).

#### **Project Aims:**

- To examine three key stages of the self-harm process;
- To examine onset of self-harm among adolescents in the community;
- To identify key features and risk factors for high-risk hospital-treated self-harm,
- To quantify long-term risk of suicide following selfharm in young people.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Study examining risk factors for suicide as part of the Suicide Support and Information System Case Control study (SSIS ACE) study was published in Suicide and Life-Threatening Behaviour.
- Work was completed out on a national cohort study to quantify risk of suicide following self-harm, with the manuscript under review.
- Work continued on NOSP funded study "The Role of Humiliation in Suicidality in Ireland's Youth. A Mixed Method Study, resulting in one publication and one manuscript under review.
- A study was undertaken examining profiles of suicide with and without prior self-harm.
- Work was begun on a study examining tends in youth self-harm in Ireland during and after the Covid pandemic.

#### Personnel involved:

Dr Elaine McMahon; Professor Ella Arensman (Mentor)

#### **Collaborators:**

Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Paul Corcoran, Professor Mary Cannon, Dr Fiona McNicholas, Mr Derek Chambers, Professor Gwendolen Portsky, Professor Danuta Wasserman, Dr Sheena McHugh.

#### Publications in 2022:

- McMahon EM, Hemming L, Robinson J and Griffin E (2022) Editorial: Suicide and self-harm in young people. Front. Psychiatry 13:1120396. doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2022.1120396
- Staines, L., Healy, C., Corcoran, P., Keeley, H., Coughlan, H., **McMahon, E**., ... & Cannon, M. (2022). Investigating the effectiveness of three school based interventions for preventing psychotic experiences over a year period-a secondary data analysis study of a randomized control trial. BMC public health, 23(1), 1-12.

- McMahon, E. M., Greiner, B. A., Corcoran, P., Larkin, C., Leitao, S., McCarthy, J., ... & Arensman, E. (2022). Psychosocial and psychiatric factors preceding death by suicide: A case-control psychological autopsy study involving multiple data sources. Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 52(5), 1037-1047.
- McLoughlin, A., Sadath, A., McMahon, E., Kavalidou, K., & Malone, K. (2022). Associations between humiliation, shame, self-harm and suicidal behaviours among adolescents and young adults: A systematic review protocol. PLoS one, 17(11), e0278122.
- McLoughlin, A., Sadath, A., **McMahon E.**, Kavalidou, K. & Malone, K.. Associations between Humiliation, Shame and Suicidal Behaviours among Adolescents and Young Adults: A Systematic Review. Under review.
- Suicide risk following hospital-presenting self-harm in Ireland: A national cohort study Griffin E., Corcoran P., Arensman E., Kavalidou K., **McMahon E.** Under review.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

- **McMahon, E.** "Psycho-social and psychiatric factors preceding death by suicide: a case-control psychological autopsy study involving multiple data sources". Oral presentation. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.
- **McMahon, E.** "Mental Health Promotion in Children and Adolescents". Lecture 8th November 2022, School of Public Health, UCC.
- McMahon, E. "Research in suicidal behaviour in children and adolescents" workshop 15th November 2022.

## Strategic Research Cluster Five Clinical subgroups

- Improving Prediction and Risk Assessment of Suicide and Self-Harm (IMPRESS)
- Deaths amongst Mental Health Services Patients
- Examining the incidence of self-harm and suicide among the Irish Traveller population
- Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders (MHAINTAIN)

## Improving Prediction and Risk Assessment of Suicide and Self-Harm (IMPRESS)

This study is part of the HRB funded 5-year research programme. The study employs an infrastructure that has been established as part of the SSIS-ACE study in the Cork hospitals for developing procedures to approach consecutive patients with high-risk self-harm (high lethality self-harm presentations and low lethality self-harm presentations with high level of suicide intent) and those who have engaged in five or more previous acts of self-harm (i.e. people with frequent self-harm repetition). Each patient who fulfils the inclusion criteria will be invited to take part in a baseline interview shortly after the index self-harm presentation and a follow-up interview six months after the index presentation.

#### **Project Aims:**

- To examine risk factors associated with repeated self-harm among patients with frequent self-harm repetition and patients with high risk self-harm;
- To develop a risk assessment procedure for repeated self-harm and suicide for use in a general hospital setting.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Data analysis and reporting on comorbid mental and physical health conditions associated with self-harm completed
- Preparation of peer reviewed papers based on project results (Ongoing)
- Briefings for relevant stakeholders

#### Personnel Involved:

Professor Ella Arensman, Ms Karen Mulcahy, Dr Isabela Troya, Dr Anvar Sadath, Dr Grace Cully.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

 Sadath A, Troya MI, Nicholson S, Cully G, Leahy D, Ramos Costa AP, Benson R, Corcoran P, Griffin E, Phillip E, Cassidy E, Jeffers A, Shiely F, Alberdi-Páramo Í, Kavalidou K, Arensman E. Comorbid Physical and Mental Disorders among Self-harm Major Repeaters: A Mixed-Methods Sequential Study. 19th European Symposium on Suicide & Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, Denmark. August 26th, 2022.

## **Deaths among Mental Health Services Patients**

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis of the prevalence of contact with mental health services preceding suicide revealed that contact with services prior to suicide was found to be common and that contact with inpatient or outpatient mental health services before suicide seems to be increasing (Walby et al., 2018; Walsh et al., 2015). When a death occurs within mental health services in Ireland, reporting occurs via 1) the Mental Health Commission (MHC), 2) the National Incident Management System (NIMS), operated by the State Claims Agency and the Health Services Executive (HSE). The purpose of this study is to merge the datasets from the HSE and the MHC to learn about circumstances surrounding deaths by suicide in mental health services.

#### **Project Aims:**

The main objectives of this study are:

- To assess the completeness of data collected by the MHC and HSE
- To review the circumstances surrounding deaths by suicide in mental health services

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Report 1: Review of the reporting of probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020 completed by June 2022
- Report 2: Probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland between 2015 and 2020 completed by December 2022

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Dr Caroline Daly

Mental Health Commission: Gary Kiernan, Daniel Costigan

HSE Mental Health: Derek Chambers

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention: Prof Philip Dodd

#### Publications in 2022:

Two internal reports:

- O'Brien, C., Corcoran, P. (2022). Review of the reporting of probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020. National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork.
- Daly, C., O'Brien, C., Corcoran, P. (2022). Probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland between 2015 and 2020. National Suicide Research Foundation, Cork.

## Examining the incidence of self-harm and suicide among the Irish Traveller population

Previous research has examined the suicide risk of the Irish Traveller population, but less is known about self-harm and suicidal ideation among this ethnic minority group, which are established risk factors for suicide.

#### **Project Aims:**

• This collaborative project with the National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm and Suicide Related Ideation aims to compare the presentation-based self-harm and suicide-related ideation of Traveller to non-Traveller patients and describe any ethnic disparities in the aftercare of their presentation.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

• Peer reviewed paper based published in Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology (Q1 2023)

#### Personnel Involved:

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Katerina Kavalidou, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Caroline Daly, Mr Niall McTernan.

#### Publications in 2022:

• Kavalidou K, Daly C, McTernan N, Corcoran P. Presentations of self-harm and suicide-related ideation among the Irish Traveller indigenous population to hospital emergency departments: evidence from the National Clinical Programme for self-harm. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol 58, 883–891.

## Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders (MHAINTAIN)

MHAINTAIN involves a research training programme, aimed to improve capacity building in early identification and assessment of suicide and self-harm risk, and to develop evidence-based interventions, cross-cutting patient-focused research, health services research and population health research, and is funded under the HRB CDA funding call.

#### **Project Aims:**

At patient level, MHAINTAIN will contribute to early identification of suicide and self-harm risk among people with comorbid psychiatric and physical disorders and improving people's quality of life. The interdisciplinary MHAINTAIN Consortium will develop enhanced and tailored treatment interventions for people with psychiatric and physical comorbidity and long-term PTSD and bring forward novel insights and evidence-based interventions to assist patients with chronic illness.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Establishment of the MHAINTAIN Steering Group.
- Completion of the recruitment process with Four PhD scholars selected for the MHAINTAIN Doctoral programme
- Completion of the preparations of the lectures and mentoring programme year one.
- Launch of the MHAINTAIN Doctoral Programme in September 2022.
- Annual progress report for the HRB.
- Four Steering Group meetings.
- MHAINTAIN Induction: Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran and Supervisory teams.
- Methodological aspects of conducting research in mental health and suicidal behaviour: Focus Project 1 & 2: Prof Ella Arensman and Dr Paul Corcoran.
- Involving People with lived experience in mental health and suicide preventions research. (PPI): Prof. Ella Arensman, Dr Isabela Troya and Dr Caroline Daly.
- Research integrity, ethics and data protection in mental health research: Dr Zubair Kabir and Dr Cliodhna O'Brien.
- Research into mental health and suicidal behaviour among children and adolescents: Dr Eve Griffin and Dr Elaine McMahon.

• MHAINTAIN: First In-depth Thematic Training and skills seminar Winter 2022:

- Public Health Emergencies and the Impact on Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviour: Prof. Matthew Spittal.

- Cancer and the Impact on Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviour: Dr Fahmi Ismail.

- Eliminating Mind Body Dualism: the Integration of Mental and Physical Health in Children and Youth in Pediatric Care: Prof. Louise Gallagher.

- Continuation Methodological aspects of conducting research in mental health and suicidal behaviour: Focus Project 3 and 4: Prof. Ella Arensman and Dr Paul Corcoran
- Data Management Plan Workshop: Dr Brendan Palmer.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

School of Public Health & National Suicide Research Foundation: Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran, Eileen Williamson, Karen Mulcahy, Margaret Kenneally, Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Elaine McMahon, Dr Cliodhna O'Brien, Prof John Browne.

Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience UCC: Prof John Cryan, Dr Olivia O'Leary.

HSE/UCC: Prof Eugene Cassidy, Dr Fahmi Ismail.

UCD: Prof Fiona McNicholas.

AISRAP: Griffith University: Prof Kairi Kolves.

University of Massachusetts: Dr Celine Larkin.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Prof Philip Dodd

PhD Scholars: Doireann Ni Dhalaigh, Pawel Hursztyn, Almas Khan, Daisy Wiggin.

## Strategic Research Cluster Six

## Suicide, Self-harm and Mental Health in the Workplace

• Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings (MENTUPP)

## Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings (MENTUPP)

Depression and anxiety are the most prevalent mental health difficulties in the EU, causing immense suffering and costing the global economy EUR 1 trillion each year in lost productivity. Employees in construction, health and information and communications technology have an elevated risk of mental health difficulties. The MENTUPP intervention aims to improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce depression, anxiety, and suicidal behaviour. The MENTUPP project involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of a multilevel intervention targeting both clinical and non-clinical mental health issues and combating the stigma of mental (ill-)health, with a specific focus on SMEs.

#### **Project Aims:**

• The primary aim of the MENTUPP intervention is to improve mental health in the workplace, with a secondary aim to reduce depression and suicidal behaviour.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Jan 2022 [M25] WP7: D7.3 Recommendations for the optimisation of the MENTUPP intervention and implementation completed and submitted.
- May 2022 [M29] WP9: D9.1 Updated Protocol and ethics approvals for MENTUPP cRCT (in all countries) completed and submitted, SME recruitment begins.
- July 2022 [M31] WP8: D8.3 cRCT Protocol Paper completed and submitted.
- Sept 2022 [M33] cRCT begins.
- Nov 2022 [M35] cRCT baseline data closes, WP9: D9.2 Mid-term recruitment report completed and submitted.
- March 2023 [39] cRCT 6-month data collection begins.
- March 2023 [39] EU Project Review Meeting

#### Personnel Involved:

National Suicide Research Foundation: Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Eve Griffin, Ms Eileen Williamson, Ms Eileen Hegarty, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Dr Mallorie Leduc, Doireann Ní Dhálaigh (on leave) Partner Organisations: University College Cork (UCC), University of Stirling (UStirling), St Mary's University Twickenham (SMU), Semmelweis University (SEM), European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD), Per Mendje Te Shendoshe (PMSH), Qendres se Shendetit Dhe Miregenieskomunitare (CCHW), Griffith University (AISRAP), International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), Terveyden Ja Hyvinvoinnin Laitos (THL), Det Nationale Forskningscenter For Arbejdsmiljo (NRCWE), Stichting Kenniscentrum Phrenos (PHRENOS), Consorcio Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona (IMIM),

Pintail Ltd, Mates in Construction Ltd, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Royal Charter (LSHTM).

#### Publications in 2022:

- Greiner BA, Leduc C, **O'Brien C**, Cresswell-Smith J, Rugulies R, Wahlbeck K, et al. (2022) The effectiveness of organisational-level workplace mental health interventions on mental health and wellbeing in construction workers: A systematic review and recommended research agenda. PLoS ONE 17(11): e0277114.
- Arensman E, O'Connor C, Leduc C, Griffin E, Cully G, Ní Dhálaigh D, Holland C, Van Audenhove C, Coppens E, Tsantila F, Ross V, Aust B, Pashoja AC, Cresswell-Smith J, Cox L, de Winter L, Fanaj N, Greiner BA, Hegerl U, Mathieu S, Moreno-Alcázar A, Orchard W, Paterson C, Purebl G, Qirjako G, Reich H, Corcoran P. Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings: Protocol for a Pilot Study of the MENTUPP Intervention. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Jan 15;19(2):947. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19020947. PMID: 35055773; PMCID: PMC8775639.
- Tóth MD, Ihionvien S, Leduc C, Aust B, Amann B, Cresswell-Smith J, Reich H, **Cully G**, Sanches S, Fanaj N, Qirjako G, Tsantila F, Ross V, Mathieu S, Cerga Pashoja A, **Arensman E**, Purebl G, and the MENTUPP Consortium (2023). Evidence for the effectiveness of interventions to reduce mental health related stigma in the workplace: a systematic review. BMJ Open 13:e067126.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

 Presentation within Symposium organised by H-Work, Building a strong, healthy workplace in Europe - psychological perspectives and insights from H2020-funded sister projects submitted to European Congress of Psychology (ECP) 2022 in Ljubljana/Slovenia, 5-8thJuly, 2022. Presenter: Prof Ella Arensman, MENTUPP: Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings.

- Symposium organised by MENTUPP: MENTUPP Multi-level workplace mental health and wellbeing intervention in construction, health care and ICT SMEs at 15th European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology Conference, 6-8th July 2022 at University of Bordeaux, France. Chair: Dr Birgit Greiner. Presentations: 'An Overview of the MENTUPP Programme Design, Implementation and Evaluation' by **Prof Ella Arensman**.
- 'Learnings from three systematic reviews on the effectiveness of organisational-level workplace mental health interventions' by Caleb Leduc, Birgit Aust, Cliodhna O'Brien, Johanna Cresswell-Smith, Reiner Rugulies, Kristian Wahlbeck, Ella Arensman.
- 'MENTUPP Pilot Study in Nine Countries First Results' by Evelien Coppens, Clíodhna O'Brien, Caleb Leduc, Eve Griffin, Grace Cully, Doireann Ní Dhálaigh, Chantal Van Audenhove, Fotini Tsantila, Victoria Ross, Paul Corcoran, Prof Ella Arensman.
- 'Factors influencing Successful Implementation of a Workplace Mental Health Intervention: Interim Results of a Scoping and Systematic Review' by Charlotte Paterson, Caleb Leduc, Birgit Greiner, Birgit Aust, Prof Ella Arensman, & Margaret Maxwell.

- Symposium organised by MENTUPP: 'Building a strong, healthy workplace in Europe: psychological perspectives and insights from H2020-funded Sister Projects' 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, 24-27 August 2022. Chair: Prof Ella Arensman. Presentations: 'An Overview of the MENTUPP Programme Design, Implementation and Evaluation' by **Prof Ella Arensman**.
- Workshop Presentation: 'Key implementation Challenges – Promoting Disclosure and Health in Different Work Contexts - MENTUPP: Alcohol and Mental Health in 13 EU Member States.' AlHaMBRA Project – Alcohol Harm, Measuring and Building Capacity for Policy Response and Action. Spanish Ministry of Health/Public Health Agency of the Regional Catalan Government. Online Workshop. 20th May. Prof Ella Arensman.
- Workshop Presentation: Suicide, Self-Harm and Mental Health in the Workplace: NSRF-ROSP Workshop. Online. Tuesday November 29th, 2022. Dr Mallorie Leduc, Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Caleb Leduc and the MENTUPP Consortium.

## Strategic Research Cluster Seven

## **Bereavement following Suicide**

- Experiences of supports for suicide bereavement in Ireland: A national survey
- Profile and outcomes of individuals attending a suicide bereavement peer-support group

## Experiences of supports for suicide bereavement in Ireland: A national survey

This is the first large-scale study of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland. This study will provide a better understanding of the psychosocial and mental health impacts of suicide bereavement in Ireland; insight into the range of informal and formal supports accessed; identification of unmet needs and challenges of accessing appropriate and timely supports; and contributing to general population awareness of the impacts of suicide. This project will provide vital information to address Connecting for Life actions to improve supports for people bereaved by suicide. This project is a collaboration with Healing Untold Grief Groups (HUGG). This project is funded under the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) collaborative grant scheme.

#### **Project Aims:**

Using an online survey approach, the specific objectives of the study are to:

- Examine the profile, characteristics and psychosocial wellbeing of adults bereaved or affected by suicide in Ireland;
- (2) Determine the types of suicide bereavement supports - both informal and formal - utilised by adults in Ireland;
- (3) Examine the experiences of receiving or engaging with supports, the associated barriers and facilitators, and the perceived gaps and unmet needs in postvention supports.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Online survey completed, with a total of 2,413 participants completing the survey (Q1 2022).
- Data analysis, report development and infographic design (Q3 2022).
- Report 'AfterWords: A survey of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland' launched by Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People, Mary Butler (Q4 2022)
- Stakeholder workshop held on actioning survey findings with support providers, planners and researchers (Q4 2022)
- Online webinar held to present findings to public audience (Q4 2022)

#### **Personnel Involved:**

NSRF: Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Selena O'Connell, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Dr Caroline Daly, Ms Almas Khan, Professor Ella Arensman

HUGG: Ms Fiona Tuomey, Ms Laura McDonnell, Mr Adam Grennan, Ms Róisín Birch.

#### Publications in 2022:

 O'Connell S, Tuomey F, O'Brien C, Daly C, Ruane-McAteer E, Khan A, McDonnell L, Arensman E, Andriessen K, Grennan A, Griffin E (2022). AfterWords: A survey of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland. Cork and Dublin: National Suicide Research Foundation and HUGG.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

- **Griffin, E** and Tuomey F. A stakeholder workshop on recommendations and actions from Ireland's First Suicide Bereavement Survey. Workshop, 11th October 2022
- **Griffin, E** and Tuomey F. Key findings and implications from Ireland's first suicide bereavement survey. HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention Meeting [Online], October 25th, 2022.
- **Griffin, E** and Tuomey F. Findings from Ireland's 1st Suicide Bereavement Survey. Webinar, 16th November 2022.

## A study of the profile and outcomes of individuals attending a suicide bereavement peer-support group

Healing Untold Grief Group (HUGG) is a charitable organisation established in 2017, with a view to providing community-based peer support groups to adults, aged 18 years and older, who have been bereaved by suicide (www.hugg.ie). There is limited research on the effectiveness and experience of peer support for suicide bereavement. This study will provide important insights into the change in participants' outcomes over time, including their psychological and physical responses. Such data is vital to inform timely and appropriate services for this population. The feedback obtained on the nature of the support groups will be used by HUGG to tailor and optimise the operation of their support groups. This project was funded by the Irish Research Council's New Foundations 2020 Scheme.

#### **Project Aims:**

The specific objectives of study were to:

- Examine the demographics and outcomes of individuals bereaved by suicide across a number of measures, specifically levels of depression and suicidality, social adjustment, stigma, somatic symptoms and complicated grief.
- For new members of the groups, assess changes in these outcomes at baseline, after 8 sessions and up to 9 months' follow-up.
- Explore participants' experiences with the peer support groups, particularly in a virtual setting.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Manuscript completed on outcomes of HUGG group members, including follow-up for new members (Q1 2022).
- Interview study exploring experiences of groups (n=12) completed and data analysed (Q2 2022).
- Preparation of manuscript on experiences of peer support groups (Q3 2022).

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation/ University College Cork: Dr Eve Griffin, Dr Selena O'Connell, Dr Maria Isabela Troya, Dr Paul Corcoran, Professor Ella Arensman.

#### Publications in 2022:

• Griffin, E., O'Connell, S., Ruane-McAteer, E., Corcoran, P., & Arensman, E. (2022). Psychosocial Outcomes of Individuals Attending a Suicide Bereavement Peer Support Group: A Follow-Up Study. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 19(7), 4076.

#### Presentations in 2022:

- **O'Connell, S.** Outcomes and experiences of a peer support group for individuals bereaved by suicide. Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education in Ireland (PCHEI) Annual Conference [Oral Presentation], Athlone, Ireland. May 24th, 2022.
- O'Connell S, Ruane-McAteer E, Troya, M.I., Seymour N, Corcoran P, Arensman E & Griffin E (2022). Experiences of peer support groups for individuals bereaved by suicide in Ireland. 19th European Symposium for Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour [Oral Presentation], Copenhagen, Denmark. August 25th, 2022.

# Strategic Research Cluster Eight Suicide and the Media

• The role of the media in suicide prevention

## The Role of the Media in Suicide Prevention

The media may have both a positive and negative influence on the development of self-harm and suicidal behaviour. While the copycat and imitation effects of media reporting are well established, recently there is an increasing evidence base in relation to using the media in a positive way - the so called 'Papageno' or preventative effect (Niederkrotenthaler et al 2010). This project commenced in 2019 and relates to *Connecting for Life* Strategic Goal 1.4: *Engage and work collaboratively with the media in relation to media guidelines, tools and training programmes to improve the reporting of suicidal behaviour within broadcast, print and online media.* 

#### **Project Aims:**

- Engage and work collaboratively with the media in relation to media guidelines for reporting suicide.
- Engage with online platforms to encourage best practice in reporting around suicidal behaviour and work with stakeholders to explore ways of restricting access to sites that primarily exist to promote suicide or self-harm.
- Examine if the media can have a positive impact in terms of reducing stigma related to mental health, addressing common misconceptions and encouraging help seeking behaviour.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Briefing on 'The impact of community led suicide prevention messages, signs, objects, and memorials
   A review of the evidence' prepared for the NOSP (July 2022).
- Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to ongoing research on Suicide Prevention on Motorway Bridges held on November 9th.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

Mr Niall McTernan, Prof Ella Arensman.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

• McTernan N. The impact of media reporting of suicide from a national and international perspective. HSE Community Healthcare West Workshop on 'Safe and Sensitive Reporting of Suicide and Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing, February 1st, 2022.

## Strategic Research Cluster Nine

## **Restricting access to Lethal Means**

• Working Group: Preventing Paracetamol-Related Intentional Drug Overdose

## Working Group: Preventing Paracetamol-Related Intentional Drug Overdose

This multidisciplinary Working Group (WG) has representations from the Department of Health, the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP), the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU), the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) and Retail Excellence Ireland (REI). The current objectives of the WG relate to enhancing information and support training development for pharmacy and non-pharmacy retail sector staff, collaborating on preventative interventions, and support interventions required following market surveillance work regarding paracetamol sales legislation. Evaluation is a core component of the WG and is integrated into the lifecycle of the group.

#### **Project Aims:**

- The aim of this WG is to collaborate on actions to prevent paracetamol-related intentional drug overdose by optimising adherence to existing legislation limiting access to paracetamol.
- Specifically, this WG will support Action 6.1.2 of CfL: Continue improvements in adherence to the legislation limiting access to paracetamol through raising awareness amongst retailers and the public and the use of pointof-sale systems. Lead: Department of Health.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Stakeholder meetings were held with the Irish Pharmacy Union (January 5th & April 6th, 2022), Retail Excellence Ireland (January 27th & June 21st, 2022), and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland Regulatory Risk Analysis and Response Group (April 6th 2022).
- Members of the WG supported the The Dispose of Unused Medicines Properly (DUMP) campaign, which ran with participating pharmacies in Cork and Kerry from March 14th to April 22nd.
- Presentations at European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, the National Patient Safety Office annual conference and HSE National Social Inclusion Office International Overdose Awareness Day.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Caroline Daly, Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Eve Griffin.

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention: Dr Philip Dodd.

## Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

- **Daly C.** Preventing intentional paracetamol overdose in countries with increasing rates and existing sales legislation.19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, August 25th. \**Research awarded best poster prize at conference*\*
- Presentation at the HSE National Social Inclusion Office International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st.
- **Daly C.** Preventing intentional paracetamol overdose in countries with increasing rates and existing sales legislation. National Patient Safety Office annual conference, October 11th.
- Presentation at the Medicines Management in Mental Healthcare Seminar on November 8th.
- **Daly C.** An overview of self-harm involving paracetamol overdose and ongoing prevention interventions. Irish Institute of Pharmacy webinar, November 23rd.
- **Daly C.** Update on means restriction interventions to prevent intentional drug overdose in Ireland. Annual Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention workshop, November 29th.
- Daly C. Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training -Supporting an Individual in Suicidal Distress. Irish Institute of Pharmacy webinar, December 7th 2022. Poster
- Preventing intentional paracetamol overdose in countries with increasing rates and existing sales legislation. National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) Conference, Dublin, October 11th.

## Strategic Research Cluster Ten Other

- C-SSHRI: Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland
- Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals Survey
- Development of national undergraduate curriculum in suicide prevention
- Impact of Patient Suicide on Psychiatrists in Ireland

## **C-SSHRI: Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland**

The Connecting for Life strategy is Ireland's national plan to reduce suicide 2015-2024 and one of the key strategic goals is to improve surveillance, evaluation and high-quality research relating to suicidal behaviour. In addressing this goal, specifically Action 7.4.2, the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) are committed to co-ordinating and streamlining self-harm and suicide-related research completed by higher education institutions. Building on the work completed in 2021, this project further established the C-SSHRI Network of Researchers and repository of literature, hosted training and research workshops and completed a scoping review based on the completed investigation of suicide and self-harm literature produced in Ireland.

Funding was gratefully received from the Higher Education Authority for 2022.

#### **Project Aims:**

 The overall goal of this project is to co-ordinate research conducted nationally in the area of suicide and self-harm by the implementation of a Research Programme and the delivery of Specialist Support and Research Dissemination, Networking and Learning events. The Research Programme involved two parts: a scoping review of suicide and self-harm research in Ireland and a review of research in relation to suicide prevention curriculum development.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Second get together held on March 29th, focusing on self-care.
- 2nd Annual Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop on the Island of Ireland held virtually on May 23rd & 24th.
- World Mental Health Day virtual seminar hosted on October 14th including a keynote lecture, research presentations, a panel discussion and masterclasses.
- Findings of the 'Scoping review on suicide and self-Harm related research published by authors based on the Island of Ireland since 2015' presented to C-SSHRI Steering Group (October 2022).

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Fenella Ryan, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Doireann Ní Dhálaigh, Eileen Williamson, Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Mary Joyce, Niall McTernan, Dr Eve Griffin.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Sarah Woods, Dr Anita Munnelly

Higher Education Authority: Tim Conlon, Dr Deirdre Quinn.

#### Publications in 2022:

- Report: Systematic Investigation of Research on Suicide and Self-Harm by Researchers on the Island of Ireland 2015-2022 (December 2022).
- Brief Report: Incorporating Wellbeing to the Curriculum (May 2022).

## **Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals Survey**

This study presents findings from an online survey completed by veterinary professionals, being vets and vet nurses registered to practise in Ireland in April 2021. The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) commissioned this research report to expand the evidence base on the wellbeing and mental health needs of veterinarian professionals working in Ireland. The survey was co-designed and developed by a small collaborative working group of members and associates of the VCI, HSE NOSP and NSRF.

#### **Project Aims:**

The study aims are as follows:

• To expand the evidence base on the wellbeing and mental health needs of veterinarian professionals working in Ireland by conducting an online survey with veterinary professionals in Ireland.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

• Report published (April 2022).

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Paul Corcoran, Ms Doireann Ní Dhálaigh, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Prof. Philip Dodd.

#### Publications in 2022:

• **O'Brien C, Ní Dhálaigh D, Corcoran P**, Dodd P. Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in Ireland, Cork: National Suicide Research Foundation.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

• O'Brien, C., Ní Dhálaigh, D., Dodd, P., Corcoran, P. Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in Ireland. European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, 25th August 2022.

## **Development of a National Undergraduate Curriculum in Suicide Prevention: Phase One and Phase Two**

This study is a response to Action 5.4.4 of the Connecting for Life (CfL) strategy which recommends the incorporation of suicide prevention training as part of third-level curricula of the relevant professions. The project involves four phases as outlined by Sinclair et al. (2020). Phase 1 is a feasibility study detailing the potential for implementing a suicide prevention training curriculum for healthcare undergraduate and postgraduate students in higher education institutions in Ireland. Phase 1 will feed into the later design phase (Phase 2), implementation phase (Phase 3) and the monitoring and reviewing phase (Phase 4). Phases 1 and 2 were addressed in 2022.

#### **Project Aims:**

The aims of the project are as follows:

- 1. To examine the feasibility of the project through literature review, survey and degree course mapping (Phase 1).
- 2. To design a flexible suicide prevention module for undergraduate healthcare students for implementation across all higher education institutions in Ireland (Phase 2).
- 3. To pilot the module with at least one cohort of undergraduate students in the academic year 2023/2024 (Phase 3).
- 4. To evaluate the implementation of the pilot delivery (Phase 4).

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

• Initiate Phase 2 of the project.

#### Personnel Involved:

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien, Dr Eve Griffin, Ms Kerrie Gallagher.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Ms Sarah Woods, Prof. Philip Dodd, Ms Ailish O'Neill.

#### Presentations/workshops related to project in 2022:

• O'Brien, C., Ní Dhálaigh, D., Gallagher, K., Dodd, P., O'Neill, A., Woods, S., Corcoran, P. Developing a national curriculum in suicide prevention for healthcare students in higher education in Ireland. European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, Copenhagen, 25th August 2022.

## Impact of Patient Suicide on Psychiatrists in Ireland

The death of patients by suicide can have profound effects on the personal and professional life of many psychiatrists. Patient suicide can have an influence on staff recruitment and retention, quality of professional life, patient care and professional well-being. Currently there is limited and idiosyncratic support for clinicians who experience patient suicide. This important issue has not been well examined in Ireland. The purpose of this study is to investigate how patient suicide affects the emotional well-being and clinical practice of psychiatrists in Ireland and to examine how best to support psychiatrists in their practice in relation to deaths of patients by suicide.

#### **Project Aims:**

The specific objectives of this study are to investigate:

- How patient suicide affects the emotional well-being and clinical practice of psychiatrists.
- The resources that psychiatrists would find helpful before and after the suicide of a patient.
- Psychiatrists' attitudes to suicide and suicide prevention, and their perceptions of institutional and societal pressures.

#### Key Deliverables and Outcomes in 2022:

- Ethical approval obtained by April 2022.
- Data collection completed by December 2022.
- Final Report due by August 2023.

#### **Personnel Involved:**

National Suicide Research Foundation: Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Clíodhna O'Brien.

National Office for Suicide Prevention: Prof. Philip Dodd.

College of Psychiatrists of Ireland: Dr Aoibhinn Lynch, Assoc. Prof. Anne Doherty.

## **Publications**

Peer Review Papers / Reports / Briefings

Papers published 2022 (n=27)		
Associations between humiliation, shame, self- harm and suicidal behaviours among adolescents and young adults: A systematic review protocol	McLoughlin A, <b>Sadath A</b> , <b>McMahon E</b> , <b>Kavalidou K</b> , Malone.	PLoS One. 2022 Nov 23;17(11):e0278122
The effectiveness of organisational-level workplace mental health interventions on mental health and wellbeing in construction workers: A systematic review and recommended research agenda	Greiner BA, <b>Leduc C, O'Brien C</b> , Cresswell-Smith J, Rugulies R, Wahlbeck K, <b>Arensman E</b> et al	PLoS ONE 17(11): e0277114.
Preventing Suicide in Health Systems: How Can Implementation Science Help?	Larkin C, <b>Arensman E</b> , Boudreaux ED	Archives of Suicide Research
Real-Time Suicide Surveillance: Comparison of International Surveillance Systems and Recommended Best Practice	Benson R, Rigby J, Brunsdon C, Corcoran P, Dodd P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Lascelles K, De Leo , Crompton D, Kõlves K, Leske S, Dwyer J, Pirkis J, Shave R, Fortune S, Arensman E	Archives of Suicide Research
Mental health following an initial period of COVID-19 restrictions: findings from a cross- sectional survey in the Republic of Ireland	Troya MI, Joyce M, Khashan A, Buckley C, Chakraborti K, Hoevel P, Humphries R, Kearney PM, Kiely E, Murphy M, Perry I, Arensman E	HRB Open Res 4:130
Time of self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments: a scoping review	McEvoy D, Clarke M, <b>Joyce M</b>	Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol
The development and validation of a dashboard prototype for real-time suicide mortality data	Benson R, Brunsdon C, Rigby J, Corcoran P, Ryan M, Cassidy E, Dodd P, Hennebry D, Arensman E	Front. Digit. Health 4:909294.
Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder: A Systematic Review of Outcomes After One Year of Follow-Up	Gillespie C, Murphy M, <b>Joyce M.</b>	Journal of Personality Disorders, 36:4
Real-time suicide surveillance supporting policy and practice	<b>Benson R</b> , Brunsdon C, Rigby J, <b>Corcoran</b> <b>P</b> , Ryan M, Cassidy E, Dodd P, Hennebry D, <b>Arensman E</b>	Global Mental Health, 1-5
Suicide numbers during the first 9-15 months of the COVID-19 pandemic compared with pre- existing trends: An interrupted time series analysis in 33 countries	Pirkis J, Gunnell D, Shin S, Del Pozo- Banos M, Arya V, Aguilar PA, Appleby L, Arafat SMY, <b>Arensman E</b> et al	eClinicalMedicine 51.
Substance use and self-harm emergency department presentations during COVID19: evidence from a National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm.	Maguire E, <b>Kavalidou K</b> , Bannan N, Doherty AM, Jeffers A	Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine, 1-6.
Police-reported suicides during the first 16 months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ecuador: A time-series analysis of trends and risk factors until June 2021	Gerstner RM, Narvaez F, Leske S, <b>Troya IM</b> , Analuisa-Aguilar P, Spittal MJ, Gunnell D	The Lancet Regional Health - Americas, 14:100324
The role of work in suicidal behavior - uncovering priorities for research and prevention	Greiner BA, <b>Arensman E</b>	Scand J Work Environ Health
Supporting employees with mental illness and reducing mental illness-related stigma in the workplace: an expert survey	Hogg B, Moreno-Alcazar A, Toth MD, Serbanescu I, Aust B, <b>Leduc C</b> , Paterson C, <b>Ni Dhalaigh D, Arensman E</b> et al	Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci 1-15

Psychosocial and psychiatric factors preceding death by suicide: A case-control psychological autopsy study involving multiple data sources	McMahon EM, Greiner BA, Corcoran P, Larkin C, Leitao S, McCarthy J, Cassidy E, Bradley C, McAuliffe C, Griffin E, Williamson E, Foster T, Gallagher J, Perry IJ, Kapur N, Arensman E	Suicide Life Threat Behav
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on presentations to health services following self-harm: systematic review	Steeg S, John A, Gunnell DJ, Kapur N, Dekel D, Schmidt L, Knipe D, <b>Arensman</b> <b>E</b> , Hawton K, Higgins JPT, Eyles E, Macleod-Hall C, McGuiness LA, Webb RT	Br J Psychiatry
Intimate partner violence: breaking the silence	Griffin E, Arensman E	The Lancet Psychiatry
Suicide rates amongst individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	<b>Troya MI</b> , Spittal MJ, Pendrous R, Crowley G, Gorton HC, Russell K, Byrne S, Musgrove R, Hannah-Swain S, Kapur N, Knipe D.	eClinicalMedicine 47: 101399
Quantitative Methods to Detect Suicide and Self-Harm Clusters: A Systematic Review.	<b>Benson R</b> , Rigby J, Brunsdon C, <b>Cully G</b> , San Too L, <b>Arensman E</b> .	Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 19: 5313.
The Experiences and Needs of Supporting Individuals of Young People who Self-Harm: A Systematic Review and Thematic Synthesis.	Mughal F, <b>Troya MI</b> , Dikomitis L, Tierney S, Corp N, Evans N, Townsend E, Chew- Graham CA.	EClinicalMedicine 00: 101437.
Sharing the Vision: Maintaining Momentum for Implementation.	Keogh F, <b>Arensman E</b> , Burke A, Ni Bhriain S, Ryan M, Kane H.	Administration, vol.70, no.2,pp.35-44.
Residential Rehabilitation Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness: Current Status and Future Directions Based on a Survey from Kollam District of Kerala.	Ramkumar GS, <b>Sadath A</b> .	Indian J Psychol Med 1-7
Psychosocial Outcomes of Individuals Attending a Suicide Bereavement Peer Support Group: A Follow-Up Study.	Griffin E, O'Connell S, Ruane-McAteer E, Corcoran P, Arensman E.	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; 19(7):4076,
Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings: Protocol for a Pilot Study of the MENTUPP Intervention	Arensman E, O'Connor C, Leduc C, Griffin E, Cully G, Ní Dhálaigh D, Van Audenhove C, Coppens E, Corcoran P et al	Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 19(2), 947;
Researching the Researchers: Psychological Distress and Psychosocial Stressors According to Career Stage in Mental Health Researchers	Hill NTM, Bailey E, <b>Benson R, Cully G</b> , Kirtley O, Purcell R, Rice S, Robinson J, Walton CC	BMC Psychology. 10(19)
Impact of Systematic Tailored Assessment for Responding to Suicidality (STARS) Protocol Training on Mental Health Professionals' Attitudes, Perceived Capabilities, Knowledge, and Reluctance to Intervene	Hawgood J, Ownsworth T, Kõlves K , Spence SH, <b>Arensman E</b> , De Leo D.	Front. Psychiatry 12:827060
Compliance with local travel restrictions and face masks during first phase of COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland: a national survey	Kearney, P. M., Spillane, M., Humphries, R., Gannon, A., Stamenic, D., <b>Arensman, E.</b> , <b>Troya, M.I.</b> , & Perry, I. J.	Journal of public health

Reports 2022 (n=8)		
Irish Probable Suicide Deaths Study - IPSDS 2015-2018	Cox, G., Munnelly, A., Rochford, S., & <b>Kavalidou, K</b>	HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)
National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Annual Report 2020	Joyce M, Chakraborty S, O'Sullivan G, Hursztyn P, Daly C, McTernan N, Nicholson S, Arensman E, Williamson E, Corcoran P	National Suicide Research Foundation
AfterWords: A survey of people bereaved by suicide in Ireland	O'Connell S, Tuomey F, O'Brien C, Daly C, Ruane-McAteer E, Khan A, McDonnell L, Arensman E, Andriessen K, Grennan A, Griffin E	National Suicide Research Foundation & HUGG
NSRF Annual Report 2021	McTernan N et al	National Suicide Research Foundation
Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in Ireland	<b>O'Brien C, Ní Dhálaigh D, Corcoran P</b> , Dodd P	National Suicide Research Foundation
Review of the reporting of probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020	O'Brien C., Corcoran P.	National Suicide Research Foundation
Probable suicide deaths among mental health service users in Ireland between 2015 and 2020	Daly C., O'Brien C., Corcoran P	National Suicide Research Foundation
Systematic Investigation of Research on Suicide and Self-Harm by Researchers on the Island of Ireland 2015-2022	Ryan F, Hursztyn P, O'Brien C	National Suicide Research Foundation

Briefing documents and policy submissions 2022 (n=7)		
Hospital-presenting self-harm during January-June 2021	National Suicide Research Foundation	November 2022
The impact of community led suicide prevention messages, signs, objects, and memorials- A review of the evidence	National Suicide Research Foundation	July 2022
Improving mental health and preventing suicidal behaviour among refugees and asylum seekers	National Suicide Research Foundation	April 2022
Proposed changes of categories to record suicide deaths on the Pulse System of an Garda Síochána	NOSP/NSRF	April 2022
Suicide prevention among young people	National Suicide Research Foundation	March 2022
Suggested modifications to CSO 'Suicide Note'	NOSP/NSRF	February 2022
Department of Justice, Review of Alcohol Licensing consultation	National Suicide Research Foundation	January 2022

## Membership of Committees and Steering Groups

Dr Margaret Kelleher	
Irish Association of Suicidology	Director
International Academy for Suicide Research	Member
	1
Professor Ella Arensman	
European Alliance Against Depression	Vice-President
World Health Organisation	Co-Director WHOCC and Advisor
Executive Committee School of Public Health	Chair
IASP Special Interest Group - Clusters and Contagion in Suicidal Behavior	Co-Chair
Graduate Studies and Research Committee, School of Public Health, University College Cork, Ireland	Co-chair
Crisis, The Journal Of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention	Co-Editor and Reviewer
International Association for Suicide Prevention	Member
Steering Group of the International COVID-19 Suicide Prevention Collaboration (ICSPRC)	Member
Healing Untold Grief Groups (HUGG) Project Working Group	Member
Advisory Panel for the Psychological Autopsy Study of Railway Suicides in the UK	Member
UCC College College of Medicine and Health Executive Committee	Member
CSO Liaison Group on Suicide Mortality Statistics	Member
National Cross Sectoral Steering and Implementation Group for Connecting for Life 2015-2024	Member
IASP Special Interest Group on National Suicide Prevention Programs	Member
National Steering Group for the Implementation of the National Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service	Member
Cork Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Forum	Member
Connecting for Life Evaluation Advisory Group	Member
Executive Committee, School of Public Health	Member
Working Group Mental Health Triage Audit and Research Committee	Member
Working Group Research and Audit - National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to Emergency Departments following Self-Harm	Member
Steering Group of A Psychological Autopsy Study of Suicide Deaths among Children and Adolescents aged 10-20 years in The Netherlands	Member
Advisory Group for the National Suicide Prevention Programme in Germany	Member
Suspected Suicide Notification and Response System Advisory Group	Member
Dr Paul Corcoran	
Graduate Studies Board Committee, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and School Public Health, University College Cork	Member
CSO Liaison Group on Suicide Mortality Statistics	Member
Expert Advisory Group for Connecting for Life	Member
School of Public Health Social Research Ethics Committee	Member
School of Public Health Medical Training Committee	Member
School of Medicine Graduate Entry Medicine Oversight Committee	Member

Dr Eve Griffin	
International Association for Suicide Prevention Postvention Special Interest Group	Member
National Working Group on Improving Bereavement Supports in Ireland	Member
School of Public Health Social Research Ethics Committee	Member
Mr Niall McTernan	
Headline's Expert Advisory Panel	Member
CSO Suicide Mortality Statistics Liaison Group	Member
Ms Eileen Williamson	
CSO Suicide Mortality Statistics Liaison Group	Member and Co-Chair
Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Special Interest Group	Member
International Association for Suicide Prevention	Member and National Representative for Ireland
NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG	Director
Steering Group HRB 5-year Programme	Member
MENTUPP Steering Group	Member
EAAD-Best Steering Group	Member
HEA Connecting for Life Cross Sectoral Working Group	Member
MHAINTAIN Steering Group	Member
World Health Organisation	Co-Director Collaborating Centre
Dr Mary Joyce	
UCC Clinical Psychology Research Ethics Committee	Member
Ms Fenella Ryan	
HEA Connecting for Life Cross Sectoral Working Group	Member
Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Special Interest Group in Youth Mental Health	Member
Dr Caroline Daly	
International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) Early Career Group	Co-Founder and Co-Chair
IASP Task Force on Inclusion of Registered Reports in Journals	Co-Chair
IASP Task Force on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Researchers	Member
International Network of Early Career Researchers in Suicide and Self-harm	Member

52

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

## **Financial Statements**

Company Registration No. 224676 (Ireland)

#### SUICIDE RESEARCH FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### **Company Information**

#### Members

Margaret Kelleher Bishop Paul Colton Patricia Casey Patricia Behan Tom O'Dwyer Barry McGale Eugene Cassidy **Birgit Greiner** James McCarthy Colin Bradley Mark O'Callaghan David Drohan Dan Neville Daniel Flynn Eric Kelleher John O'Brien Karen Galway

Trustees

Margaret Kelleher James McCarthy Barry McGale Eugene Cassidy Mark O'Callaghan Eileen Williamson Colin Bradley Daniel Flynn Eric Kelleher John O'Brien Karen Galway

#### Directors

Margaret Kelleher James McCarthy Barry McGale Eugene Cassidy Mark O'Callaghan Colin Bradley Daniel Flynn Eric Kelleher John O'Brien Karen Galway

#### **Secretary** Eileen Williamson

## Company number 224676

Charity number

CHY11351

#### Charities Regulatory Authority Number 20030889

#### **Registered Office**

1 Perrott Avenue College Road Cork

Page

#### Auditor

H&A Accountancy Services Ltd t/a Hickey & Associates Unit 2, Bowling Green White Street Cork

#### **Business Address**

Room 4.28 Western Gateway Building University College Cork T12 YF9N

#### Bankers

Allied Irish Banks plc 66 South Mall Cork

#### Solicitors

CCK Law Firm Newmount House 22/24 Mount Street Lower Dublin 2

### Content

Directors' Report	55
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	73
Independent Auditor's Report	74
Statement of Financial Activities	77
Balance Sheet	78
Statement of Changes in Funds	79
Statement of Cash Flows	80
Notes to the Financial Statements	81
Unaudited Management Information for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2022	98

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The directors present their report and financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

#### Introduction

The financial statements have been prepared by Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement Of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS Charities SORP) (2018) effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, known as the 'SORP' (the financial reporting framework).

The organisation is a charitable company with a registered office at 1 Perrott Avenue, College Road, Cork and has a registered business name of National Suicide Research Foundation. The company's registered number is 224676. The Registered Charity Number (RCN) of the charity is 20030889.

The charity has been granted charitable tax status under sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity number CHY 11351 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee (National Suicide Research Foundation) (NSRF) is an independent, multi-disciplinary research unit established in Cork, in 1994, by the late Dr Michael J Kelleher. Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee undertakes research into a wide range of topics relating to suicide and self-harm and, accordingly, provides the knowledge base for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention strategies.

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee investigates the causes of suicide, self-harm and related mental health and social factors in Ireland. Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee has a memorandum of collaboration with University College Cork. Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee works collaboratively with the Health Service Executive's National Office for Suicide Prevention in relation to providing research and evidence in line with the objectives of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024.

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee's principal aims are to build capacity in knowledge and expertise to achieve greater understanding of the causes of suicide and self-harm in Ireland, and to improve evidence-informed programmes in self-harm intervention, suicide prevention and mental health promotion.

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee is a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention and, as such, fulfils an advisory role to the WHO, and, additionally, provides guidance to countries internationally in developing and implementing registration systems and prevention programmes for self-harm and suicide. Furthermore, Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee's research contributes to international policy development in suicide prevention.

The members of Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee research team represent a broad range of disciplines, including psychology, psychiatry, medicine, epidemiology, public health, biostatistics, applied social studies, and health services research.

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee's specialist areas of expertise include:

- Surveillance of self-harm and suicide
- Evidence-based treatments for self-harm and depression
- Guiding the implementation and evaluation of national suicide prevention programmes
- Development of the evidence base for the implementation of multi-level suicide prevention programmes

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee's research and publications provide an evidencebase on many key topics, including:

- Risk and protective factors associated with self-harm and suicide
- Self-harm and related mental health and social factors among young people
- Impact of alcohol and drugs on self-harm and suicide
- Assessment and treatment of self-harm and depression
- Contagion and clustering of suicide and self-harm
- Restricting access to lethal and frequently used methods of self-harm and suicide
- Bereavement following suicide and murder-suicide, media reporting and suicide.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### **Overview of Surveillance and Research Activities 2022**

#### Surveillance Activities

#### National Self-Harm Registry Ireland

The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI) is a national surveillance system which gathers information on hospital-presenting self-harm at Emergency Departments in all hospitals across Ireland. The NSHRI was established in 2000 at the request of the Department of Health. As of 2006, the NSHRI has full coverage of all general and paediatric hospital emergency departments in the Republic of Ireland. Each year, the NSHRI publishes a report on its findings. Annual reports can be accessed here: <a href="http://www.nsrf.ie/reports">www.nsrf.ie/reports</a>. Findings on data from the NSHRI are also published in peer-reviewed journal articles which can be found on the NSRF website. Data from the NSHRI is utilised as an outcome measure of *Connecting for Life* 2015-2024: Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024 (*CfL*). The NSHRI is funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP).

#### Key deliverables 2022

- Peer reviewed paper published in Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology: Time of self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments - A scoping review.

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on 25 August on 'Trends in intentional drug overdose involving illegal drugs: A national registry-based study 2007-2019'

- NSHRI Annual Report 2020 published on 9 November
- Data Briefing covering January June 2021 published on 9 November

- Public and patient involvement and engagement (PPIE) panel established.

#### Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm

The Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm was established by the Northern Ireland Public Health Agency in 2012. It has coverage of all 12 acute hospitals in Northern Ireland, as part of the action plan to address self-harm and suicide prevention under the Protect Life Strategy. The regional introduction of the Registry followed an initial piloting of the service in the Western Health and Social Care Trust from 2007 to 2012. The NSRF provides statistical analysis, support and independent verification of data recorded by the Northern Ireland Registry of Self-harm. A yearly contract is agreed with the Public Health Agency and the terms of the 2022/2023 contract were agreed in April 2022.

#### Key deliverables 2022

- Quarterly performance monitoring report submitted to PHA (Q1 2022)
- Contract review meeting between PHA and NSRF held on April 8th
- Working Group established (September 2022)

#### Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory

The Suicide and Self-Harm Observatory was developed to obtain minimal data on suspected suicide cases from the Coroners of County Cork and the HSE Patient Mortality Register in real-time for early identification of emerging suicide clusters, new methods amenable to means restriction measures and locations of concern, as well as timely responses to bereaved individuals, evidence-based policy planning and targeted service provision. It fulfils national and international objectives based on the need for real-time suicide data, including Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024 *CfL* objective 7.2: Improve access to timely and high-quality data on suicide; the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre work programme agreement to facilitate real-time suicide data and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 2.4 to reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention, treatment and promotion of mental health and well-being by 2030, of which suicide mortality rate is an indicator.

#### Key deliverables 2022

- Presentations at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on August 26th on 'Facilitation of access to real-time suicide data to improve responding to suicide clusters and contagion' and 'Review of surveillance systems for real-time suicide data and identification of suicide clusters and contagion'

- Peer reviewed paper published in Archives of Suicide Research: Real-Time Suicide Surveillance: Comparison of International Surveillance Systems and Recommended Best Practice

- Peer reviewed paper published in Frontiers Digital Health: The development and validation of a dashboard prototype for real-time suicide mortality data

- Peer reviewed paper published in Global Mental Health: Real-time suicide surveillance supporting policy and practice

- Tendering document draft in progress for evaluation of SSHO.

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Ongoing Research Projects and Research Projects that Commenced in 2022

The NSRF has an Overall Agreement with the NOSP for the duration of *CfL*, and agrees the terms of a Service Arrangement annually in respect of funding for the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and agreed research projects. The NSRF is also in receipt of research funding from other funding bodies as outlined below:

#### Research Projects funded by the National Office for Suicide Prevention

## Improving surveillance and monitoring of self-harm in Irish Prisons: The Self-harm Assessment and Data Analysis (SADA) Project

As part of its role in *CfL*, Irelands National Strategy to Reduce Suicide, the Irish Prison Service has committed to reviewing, analysing and learning from each episode of self-harm within the prison estate. The SADA project provides robust information relating to the incidence and profile of self-harm within prison settings, identifies individual- and context-specific risk factors relating to self-harm, as well as examining patterns of repeat self-harm. Such information can be used as an evidence base to inform the identification and management of prisoners who engage in or who are at-risk for self-harm, and to develop effective prevention initiatives. Findings from this project are disseminated back to the Irish Prison Service National Suicide and Harm Prevention Steering Group (NSHPG) on a yearly basis. The NSRF coordinates the data management, data analysis and reporting of findings from the SADA Project.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Peer reviewed paper based on 3 years of data (2017-2019) published in the International Journal of Prisoner Health (Q1 2023)

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in CopeNhagen on August 26th on 'Characteristics and profile of prisoners who engage in self-harm: Findings from the Self-Harm Assessment and Data Analysis Project 2017-2019'

#### Department of Health - Paracetamol Working Group

This multidisciplinary Working Group (WG) aims to prevent paracetamol-related intentional drug overdose by optimising adherence to existing legislation limiting access to paracetamol. Specifically, this WG will support the implementation of Action 6.1.2 of *CfL*: To continue improvements in adherence to the legislation limiting access to paracetamol through raising awareness amongst retailers and the public and the use of point-of-sale systems.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Support of the DUMP campaign in Cork and Kerry (Q1 2022)

- Working meetings with Irish Institute of Pharmacy, Irish Pharmacy Union, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and Retail Excellence Ireland (Q2 2022)

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on August 25th on 'Preventing intentional paracetamol overdose in countries with increasing rates and existing sales legislation' \*Research awarded best poster prize at conference\*

- Presentations at the National Patient Safety Office annual conference and HSE National Social Inclusion Office International Overdose Awareness Day (Q3 2022)

- Presentations at Irish Institute of Pharmacy webinars on 23 November and 7 December

<sup>-</sup> Presentation at the annual Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention workshop on 29 November. Title: Update on means restriction interventions to prevent intentional drug overdose in Ireland.

#### The Role of the Media in Suicide Prevention

The media may have both a positive and negative influence in the development of self-harm and suicidal behaviour. While the copycat and imitation effects of media reporting are well established, recently there is an increasing evidence base in relation to using the media in a positive way - the so called 'Papageno' or preventative effect (Niederkrotenthaler et al 2010). The NSRF undertakes research relating to the role of the media in suicide prevention on an on-going basis.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Peer-reviewed paper on the role of the media in suicide clustering and contagion published in Suicidologi (January 2022)

- Presentation at HSE Community Healthcare West Workshop on 'Safe and Sensitive Reporting of Suicide and Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing'

- Briefing on 'The impact of community led suicide prevention messages, signs, objects, and memorials – A review of the evidence' prepared for the NOSP (July 2022).

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on 26 August on 'Advancing Suicide Prevention in Ireland: An Analysis of the '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service'

- Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to ongoing research on Suicide Prevention on Motorway Bridges held on 9 November.

#### Deaths in Mental Health Services: Research Project with the Mental Health Commission and the HSE

When a death occurs within mental health services in Ireland, reporting occurs via 1) the Mental Health Commission (MHC), 2) the National Incident Management System (NIMS), operated by the State Claims Agency and the Health Services Executive (HSE). The purpose of this study is to merge the datasets from the HSE and the MHC to learn about circumstances surrounding deaths by suicide in mental health services. The main objectives of this study are to assess the completeness of data collected by the MHC and HSE, and to review the circumstances surrounding deaths by suicide in mental health services.

Key deliverables 2022: Finalised two agreed review reports:

1. Review of the Reporting of Probable Suicide Deaths among Patients in Mental Health Services

2. Review of patient profile and circumstances of death among patients in the mental health services who died by probable suicide in Ireland between January 1st 2015 and December 31st 2020.

#### Development of a National Undergraduate Curriculum in Suicide Prevention

This project is phase one of the curriculum development initiative and aims to provide an evidence base and a starting point for developing a national undergraduate curriculum in suicide prevention that could be incorporated into a range of different programmes offered by Irish HEIs. The project aims to conduct a literature review for evidence to support curriculum content which will include government publications, key reports, published healthcare curriculum and other grey literature, review national and international frameworks of core healthcare professional undergraduate programmes for suicide prevention guidelines and identify relevant professions and conducting a mapping of relevant Irish courses and identify key stakeholders to form National Steering Group.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on 25 August on 'Developing a national curriculum in suicide prevention for healthcare students in higher education in Ireland'

- Phase 1 report on the feasibility of implementing a suicide prevention training programme with healthcare students completed with review and survey findings

- Phase Two of the project initiated in November 2022.

#### Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals Survey

The purpose of the current study is to gain an insight into to the mental health profile of veterinary professionals in Ireland and to understand the stressors, help-seeking behaviours and support that veterinary professionals access that are particularly relevant for this cohort. This information will be gathered from veterinary professionals via an online survey which will have a range of single item questions and standardised measures of mental health. The findings from this study will inform initiatives by the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) to support the mental health of their members.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Report on the 'Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in Ireland' published in collaboration with the Veterinary Council of Ireland

- Webinar on 'Mental Health of Veterinary Professionals in Ireland' report findings broadcast on 22 April

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on 25 August on 'Mental health of veterinary professionals in Ireland'.

#### Impact of Patient Suicide on Psychiatrists in Ireland

This is a cross-sectional study of psychiatrists in Ireland. A web-based survey which was originally designed by a multidisciplinary team of clinicians in England experienced in this area and informed by past research has been revised by a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers for use with psychiatrists in Ireland.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- \*New project\* Ethical approval obtained (March 2022)
- Online dissemination (October 2022)
- Data analysis is underway, and a report is being drafted (Q1 2023).

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Evaluation of the CAMS (The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality) in CHO7

Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) is being delivered to approx 50 clinicians in CHO7 in Q1 2023. Aim of this evaluation is to examine the potential impacts, feasibility and acceptability of the CAMS framework. Evaluation will include an online survey with clinicians and a chart review of patients in receipt of CAMS treatment.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- \*New project\* - CAMS logic model was held on 13 May including key stakeholders

- Ethics application submitted to HSE Reference Research Ethics Committee (RREC) for the Midlands Area and Corporate Division (Regional Health Area B)

#### Self-Harm – Revision of Training Programme / Development of Material

Review underway of understanding self-harm training, with suggestions provided by NSRF in relation to general optimisation, content layout, accessibility and diversity. Recommendations also made to include new specialised experts and toolkit for attendees.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- \*New project\* - Materials shared between NSRF and NOSP for review (Q2 2022)

- Planning meeting with NOSP (Q3 2022)

- NSRF 'expert' agreed and contacted for filming of new material.

#### Analysis of anonymised 'texter' data collected via the 50808-crisis text service in Ireland

This study is analysing anonymised texter data, which was routinely collected during the 12-month period, January 2020 – January 2021, with a view to exploring who uses the service and why. This is the first such analysis of texter data to 50808 and the findings may be used to shape future service delivery, to inform public policy, and to facilitate a deeper understanding of mental health need in Ireland.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on 26 August on 'Advancing Suicide Prevention in Ireland: An Analysis of the '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service'

- Presentation at the International Association for Youth Mental Health Conference 2022. Title: Advancing Suicide Prevention in Ireland: An Analysis of the '50808' 24/7 Crisis Text Service

- Summary report on data for 2021 awaiting sign off (Q1 2023).

#### Examining the incidence of self-harm and suicide-related ideation among the Irish Traveller population

Using data from the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients Presenting to Emergency Departments following Self-Harm, this study aims to compare the incidence of hospital-presenting self-harm and suicide-related ideation of Travellers to non-Traveller patients and to describe any ethnic disparities in the aftercare of their suicide-related presentation.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Peer reviewed paper published in Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. Title: Presentations of selfharm and suicide-related ideation among the Irish Traveller indigenous population to hospital emergency departments: evidence from the National Clinical Programme for Self-Harm.

#### Other Agreed Activities as part of the Service Arrangement with the HSE NOSP

Group membership

- Central Statistics Office Suicide Mortality Statistics Liaison Group
- CfL Evaluation Advisory Group
- HEA Cfl Cross Sectoral Group

- Synthesise/summarise literature in relation to COVID-19 of relevance, on a monthly basis, for the NGO groups funded as part of CfL

- Support of the Suicide Resource Officers including facilitated workshops on topics of their choice and participation in ROSP organised events

- Online events Webinar for World Suicide Prevention Day
- Seminar on suicide and self-harm World Mental Health Day

- Provision of Information and briefing documents for *CfL* Partners, government departments, media and general public.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- NSRF contributed to the following policy submissions to CSO Suicide Mortality Statistics Liaison Group members: 1) NOSP/NSRF—Proposed changes of categories to record suicide deaths on the Pulse System of An Garda Siochana and 2) NOSP/NSRF—Suggested modifications to information note accompanying the release of suicide figures

- NSRF prepared monthly updates on informative publications and helpful resources related to the impact of Covid-19 on mental health, to Connecting for Life partners

- 2nd Annual Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop on the Island of Ireland held virtually on 23 & 24 May

- World Mental Health Day virtual seminar hosted on 14 October including a keynote lecture, research presentations, a panel discussion and masterclasses

- At the request of the NOSP, the NSRF prepared the following briefing documents: 1) Suicide prevention among young people (15 March), 2) Improving mental health and preventing suicidal behaviour among refugees and migrants (21 April), 3) Trends in hospital-presenting self-harm among young people aged 10 – 18 years, 2007-2019 (26 April)

- NSRF-ROSP Research Workshops held on 25 October & 6 December, covering: (1) Ireland's First National Suicide Bereavement Survey (2) Suicide and Self-Harm among Young People (3) Suicide, self-harm and mental health in the workplace (4) Update on means restriction interventions to prevent intentional drug overdose in Ireland.

#### National Suicide Bereavement Survey

This research will help us better understand both the short-term and long-term impacts of suicide bereavement, along with the support needs of those impacted by suicide. The findings will inform further service development and policy priorities. There will be several important impacts and outcomes from this project. These will include:

- A better understanding of the psychosocial and mental health impacts of suicide bereavement in Ireland
- Insight into the range of informal and formal supports accessed in Ireland
- Identification of unmet needs and challenges of accessing appropriate and timely supports
- Informing the standardisation and quality of postvention supports available
- Contributing to the general public's awareness of the impacts of suicide.

The outcomes of this research will directly inform actions in *CfL*, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide, specifically those to identify gaps in relation to specialised services, to identify best practice guidance in terms of outreach and timing of supports (*CfL* Action 4.3.1). The findings will also provide guidance in relation to barriers to accessing supports, will inform interventions for under-represented groups, along with activities which seek to reduce stigma and increase public awareness (*CfL* Action 3.1.4). This research is in receipt of funding from the HSE NOSP's first grant round.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Report launched by Minister Mary Butler on 11 Tuesday October at an event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy, at the Mansion House, Dublin. The launch was followed by a key stakeholder workshop, which generated important action points and priority recommendations to inform service development and policy, along with further research in this area

- Over 80 people attended a public webinar on 16 November which included a presentation of key findings, an overview of next steps and a panel discussion.

## Evaluation of the HSE Bereavement Counselling Service for Traumatic Deaths (South East Community Healthcare)

The Bereavement Counselling Service was established in 2006, is funded by the HSE and operated by a designated service management team within Mental Health Services. *CfL* Action 4.3.2: Commission and evaluate bereavement support services. The HSE CHO5 has provided funding to the NSRF to undertake an evaluation of this service.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Report published in Q1 2023.

#### C-SSHRI: Connecting Suicide and Self-Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland

This collaborative study with the Higher Education Authority aims to co-ordinate and streamline research related to suicide and self-harm on the island of Ireland. C-SSHRI is a research community specific to suicide and self-harm, which provides a forum for members to connect with each other as well as organised meetings and events. Support from the HSE and the HEA will provide a policy connection, facilitating translation of research into policy. C-SSHRI will facilitate members to share information, knowledge, skills and expertise, connect on ideas for future

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

research, collaborate on national and international research opportunities, unite experienced researchers and early career researchers, disseminate research and research findings more widely, connect on inter-disciplinary research and inform policy development. The HEA provided funding for this research in 2021 and 2022 and further funding has been provided for 2023. Please see Future Developments below.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- 2nd Annual Suicide and Self-Harm Research Workshop on the Island of Ireland held virtually on 23 & 24 May

- World Mental Health Day virtual seminar hosted on 14 October including a keynote lecture, research presentations, a panel discussion and masterclasses

- Scoping Review on Suicide and Self-Harm related Research Published by Authors based on the Island of Ireland since 2015 finalised and ready for publication

#### World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre and WHO Commissioned Work

As part of its designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention, the NSRF provides advice and information to the WHO and, at the request of the WHO, to countries interested in establishing systems of monitoring self-harm. The WHO provides funding for travel and subsistence to these countries. In addition, the WHO commissions the NSRF to undertake specific research-related projects. Please also see Future Developments below.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Technical support for the establishment of self-harm surveillance systems in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago at the request of the WHO—Phase Two commencement

- NSRF attended a meeting of the Pan-European Mental Health Coalition in Copenhagen on 23 August
- WHO Mental Health at work guidelines published on 28 September

#### Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings: MENTUPP

The MENTUPP consortium aims to improve mental health in the workplace by developing, implementing and evaluating an evidence-based, online tool for employers, managers and employees. This online tool, the MENTUPP Hub, helps Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to support staff with mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, stress, burnout and poor wellbeing. A secondary aim is to reduce depression and suicidal behaviour. The project involves input from 17 partners, including the NSRF. To date, the NSRF has led the pilot study of the intervention by drafting a pilot protocol and securing ethical approval. Funding is provided by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme of funding.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Presentation at 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour in Copenhagen on August 24th on 'Building a strong, healthy workplace in Europe: psychological perspectives and insights from H2020-funded sister projects'

- Peer reviewed paper published in European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience: Supporting employees with mental illness and reducing mental illness-related stigma in the workplace: an expert survey

- Peer reviewed paper published in Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health: The role of work in suicidal behaviour – uncovering priorities for research and prevention

- WHO Mental Health at work guidelines published on 28 September

## EAAD-Best: Adapting and Implementing EAAD's Best Practice Model to Improve Depression Care and Prevent Suicidal Behaviour in Europe

The EAAD-Best project is funded within the Annual Work Programme 2020 of the 3rd EU Health Programme (HPPJ-2020). The EAAD-Best project involves i) transferring the community-based 4-level intervention concept of the European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD) to new regions and countries in Europe, and ii) promoting the international uptake of the iFightDepression®-tool, an internet-based self-management tool for patients with depression. The EAAD-Best project is a collaboration of 10 high-ranked organizations from 10 European countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Spain). In Ireland, the EAAD 4-level intervention will be transferred to three new regions and the iFightDepression®-tool will be promoted for uptake nationally. Funding is provided by the European Commission's CHAFEA programme of funding and a contract has been signed.

#### Key deliverables 2022:

- Ireland Kick Off Meeting held on 5 May

- Perspectives on Early Identification of Suicide Risk and Prevention, Public Event and Demonstration held online on 15 September

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- iFightDepression tool Ukrainian translation launched on 21 September

- In person launch seminar held in Q1 2023

#### Health Research Board Emerging Investigators Award

Providing Improved care for Self-HarM: a mixed-method study of intervention, economic and implementations outcome from a national clinical programme – PRISM. PRISM is funded as part of the Health Research Board's Emerging Investigators Award programme and commenced in 2019, led by Dr Eve Griffin. This four-year programme aims to examine outcomes for individuals who present to hospital as a result of self-harm. The project is a collaboration between the NSRF, UCC and the Irish Health Service Executive. The project will run until August 2023.

#### **Project Aims**

- Examine the clinical management of self-harm and its impact on risk of repeat self-harm, suicide and premature mortality

- Examine the impact of a National Clinical Programme for self-harm on patient outcomes, processes of care and economic savings

- Identify the determinants contributing to the implementation of this Clinical Programme across hospitals.

This project will maximise the use of routinely-available national data. A mixed-methods approach will deliver actionable findings which will contribute to optimising services and outcomes for individuals who engage in self-harm, ultimately reducing deaths by suicide and other external causes. Findings will directly inform service delivery and contribute to national policy. In accordance with the terms of the NSRF's Memorandum of Agreement with UCC, the overheads attaching to PRISM are split evenly between the two organisations.

#### Key deliverables 2022

- Peer reviewed paper published in Lancet Psychiatry: Intimate partner violence: breaking the PRISM silence

- Editorial published in Frontiers in Psychiatry: Suicide and self-harm in young people

- Presentation at NCPSHSI Education Session, 7 December

## MHAINTAIN: Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders

MHAINTAIN is a research training network addressing the need for doctoral training and career paths, to improve early identification and intervention of self-harm and suicide risk. The vision of this interdisciplinary consortium is to improve capacity building in the assessment of risk of suicide and self-harm and evidence-based interventions across patient focused research, health services research and population health research. The MHAINTAIN research training programme includes four Doctoral Projects, with five PhD Scholars. MHAINTAIN will offer a representative range of research designs and methodological approaches.

Key deliverables 2022:

- Online launch held on 15 September

- 1st Research Training Network webinar held on 22 November

## SHOAR: Examining individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm and suicidal ideation in older adults in Ireland

SHOAR is a two-year study led by Dr Isabela Troya, funded by a Government of Ireland Fellowship (2022-2024). SHOAR aims to examine individual and psychosocial determinants of self-harm in older adults to improve risk assessment and management of self-harm in later life.

Key deliverables 2022:

- Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Cork Teaching Hospitals (CREC) approval obtained in June 2022 - First stakeholder meeting held in July 2022.

#### Collaborations

#### Coronial Data/Clinical Care Programme

The Health Research Board/Health Service Executive Coronial Data Study is being carried out in order to fulfil five key strategic commitments made by the HSE NOSP and other key partners under Goal 7 of *CfL*.

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The aim of this study is twofold, firstly to improve access to timely and high-quality data on suicide and self-harm and secondly to review (and, if necessary, revise) current recording procedures for death by suicide.

The study requires the secondment from the NSRF of a Post-Doctoral Researcher to a Data Analyst Post to work with the NOSP's Evaluation Manager and the study's Technical Advisory Group.

This researcher also works on data analysis for the HSE National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients Presenting to Emergency Departments following Self-Harm.

A Change Control note to the HSE NOSP/NSRF Service Arrangement has been agreed.

#### National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Project

The National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) Project, Ireland was established in 2013 through funding provided by the NOSP. This project is a multi-year project which aims to train DBT teams in Community Mental Health settings across Ireland and to conduct an extensive evaluation of this national implementation. The Health Service Executive and the NSRF have come together as two organisations to collaborate in implementing and evaluating DBT programmes across Ireland.

Funding for the National DBT Project is provided by the HSE's NOSP to HSE CHO4 and a Service Arrangement is agreed with the NSRF.

#### **Open Dialogue project**

The HSE commissioned the NSRF to conduct an independent review of the Open Dialogue (OD) initiative in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. Principles of OD include immediate response; social network inclusion; continuity and flexibility; responsibility, tolerating uncertainty and dialogue.

The study seeks to review and understand the experience of OD as a clinical pathway, rolled out as part of West Cork Mental Health Services to treat people suffering from a wide range of mental health conditions. The project seeks to review both the impact and implementation of OD, from multiple points; including clients' experiences of their care process, that of their social network, and professional team in comparison to treatment as usual (TAU). Both quantitative and qualitative methods are being used to ascertain how OD as a clinical pathway was experienced. The results of the study will be used to improve the quality and efficiency of future patient care and clinical practice. The key findings of the studies will be reported to the HSE CHO4, and other relevant stakeholders, and findings will be disseminated via articles in peer review journals.

Funding is provided by HSE CHO4 as part of the National DBT Project Service Arrangement.

#### **Directors and secretary**

The directors who held office during the financial year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Margaret Kelleher	
James McCarthy	
Dave Drohan	(Retired 29 June 2022)
Barry McGale	
Eugene Cassidy	
Mark O'Callaghan	
Colin Bradley	(Appointed 29 June 2022)
Daniel Flynn	(Appointed 29 June 2022)
Karen Galway	(Appointed 29 June 2022)
John O'Brien	(Appointed 29 June 2022)
Eric Kelleher	(Appointed 29 June 2022)

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Directors' attendance at the 2022 meetings:

Margaret Kelleher -3 of 5, James McCarthy -5 of 5, Barry McGale -5 of 5, Eugene Cassidy -3 of 5, Mark O'Callaghan -5 of 5, Dave Drohan (resigned 29/06/2022) -1 of 4, Prof. Colin Bradley (appointed 29/06/2022) -1 of 1 Daniel Flynn (appointed 29/06/2022) -1 of 1 Dr Eric Kelleher (appointed 29/06/2022) -1 of 1 John O'Brien (appointed 29/06/2022) -0 of 1 Dr. Karen Galway (appointed 29/06/2022) -1 of 1

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Directors, trustees and other senior personnel

**Mr. James McCarthy, Chairman -** James is a Chartered Accountant and Director in Ernst and Young's Corporate Finance practice in Cork. He joined the NSRF Board as a Director in 2016 and has served as Chairman since early 2018. James brings more than 16 years of financial services experience to his role on the board.

**Dr. Margaret Kelleher -** Margaret worked closely with the late Dr Michael Kelleher in having suicide decriminalised in 1993 and was a founding member and medical director of the NSRF in 1994. On the death of Dr. Michael Kelleher in 1998, she became the director with overall responsibility for the foundation. She continues as the medical director of the NSRF, is a General Practitioner in Cork and has had a lifelong interest in suicide prevention. She is a fellow of the International Association of Suicide Research (IASR) and brings extensive clinical experience and insights to the Board.

**Mr. Barry McGale** - Barry is a retired mental health nurse and cognitive behavioural therapist. He is a suicide prevention consultant with Suicide Bereavement UK and Livingworks Canada. He has been a member of the NSRF Board since 2013. Barry brings his vast experience of working with suicidal patients and bereaved families to the Board.

**Professor Eugene Cassidy** - Eugene graduated in Medicine (MB BCh BAO) from UCD in 1992 and completed a Master of Medical Science (Physiology Hons) at UCD in 1995. He is a Clinical Professor at University College Cork and Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist with the HSE at Cork University Hospital. Eugene brings broad clinical and research experience to his position on the Board.

**Mr. Mark O'Callaghan BCL LLB AITI FCCA -** Mark, a Practising Solicitor for over 20 years has been practising in Dublin since 2005. He is also qualified as a Chartered Tax Adviser and an Accountant. Mark has been the go-to person for professional legal advice to the National Suicide Research Foundation since 2001 and until his appointment to the Board in 2019. Mark brings his extensive legal and financial experience to the board.

**Dr. Colin Bradley -** Colin was Professor of General Practice in UCC until his retirement in June 2022. He has also been a practising general practitioner for over 40 years and continues in (part-time) general practice in Cork city. He has taught medical and other healthcare students for many years. He has an extensive research portfolio particularly in the areas of general practice prescribing and chronic diseases. He is also a Fulbright alumnus and was a Fulbright Ambassador to UCC. He was a member of the Benzodiazepine Committee that issued the first guidelines on benzodiazepine prescribing in Ireland in 2000. He was also a member of the cardiovascular disease strategy review group in the mid 2000s. He is a former editor of the European Journal of General Practice, former Chair of the UK and Ireland Drug Utilisation Research Group, and has been a Board member of the Irish College of General Practitioners. He is currently a member of the Board of the Mercy University Hospital.

**Daniel Flynn** - Daniel is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist with the Psychological Society of Ireland and Principal Psychology Manager co-ordinating Adult and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Psychology Services in the Health Service Executive (HSE) across counties Cork and Kerry. He is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Applied Psychology at University College Cork (UCC), Ireland. He has accumulated over 20 years experience of working in mental health services. His clinical interests are in working with individuals who struggle to regulate emotions and engage in high-risk self-harm behaviours and considering the impact of these behaviours on families and systems. In recent years he has focused on considering not only intervention but prevention of mental health distress, looking at both mental health and school-based populations. He is the originator of the PSYCHED Initiative working with Cork Health Cities and partner agencies to promote mental health and well-being in workplaces and communities across the city and county.

**Dr. Karen Galway -** Karen is a Senior Lecturer in Mental Health, at Queen's University Belfast. She has worked across public, voluntary and academic sectors, in the fields of psychology, public health, epidemiology, nursing and mental health. Dr Galway has taught and supervised over 1500 undergraduate nursing students and been involved in research funding totaling £1.6m. She has published over 50 peer reviewed papers and reports, featuring suicide prevention and postvention. She is co-founder and co-Chair of the Suicide Prevention Research and Impact Network for Northern Ireland [SPRIN-NI] and co-lead for research and evaluation at the All Ireland Social Prescribing Network.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**John O'Brien -** John O'Brien has been working in the Community & Public Health arena since 2013. John's experience has seen him work on community led interventions in child and adult obesity, men's health, mental health & suicide prevention. His work has predominantly been in the field of health inequalities working with communities from marginalised and lower socio economic backgrounds. Since 2017, John has been working with the Traveller community. John currently manages the National Traveller Mental Health Service at Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Service.

**Dr Eric Kelleher - MB, MRCP, MRCPsych,** PhD - Eric is a consultant liaison psychiatrist at Cork University Hospital and Mercy University Hospital. He is a clinical lead of the self-harm service at these sites. He is also a member of the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) of the National Clinical Care Programme for Self-Harm and Suicide-related Ideation. He has conducted and participated in a number of studies on suicidal behaviour with the NSRF. He is an honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer with the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioural science, University College Cork.

#### Eileen Williamson, Chief Executive Officer & Company Secretary

Eileen commenced employment with the late Dr Michael J Kelleher in 1994 and is a founder member of the NSRF. She holds an MBS (Hons) Degree in Health Services Management from University College Cork. Eileen is responsible for the overall strategic and operational management of the NSRF and has specific responsibility for finance, legal and human resource related issues. In particular, she protects the financial assets and formulates, negotiates and controls the annual budgets. Her role also involves working with the external auditors in the preparation of the yearly Financial Statements.

In addition, Eileen chairs the Operations Sub-group and the Research Operations meetings, and oversees the management of the research team. She is the NSRFs Company Secretary and plays an active role in the development of the NSRF's goals, policies and strategic focus. She ensures compliance with the Companies Acts regulations, the implementation of strategy in addition to supporting the Board of Directors. She was instrumental in having the NSRF designated by the WHO as a Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention.

#### Dr Paul Corcoran, Head of Research

Paul is an epidemiologist with almost thirty years of experience in suicidal behaviour research. Paul is also a Senior Lecturer with the UCC School of Public Health and with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre in the UCC Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Paul's degrees include a BSc in Statistics and Computer Science, a Master's degree in Statistics and a PhD in Epidemiology, all obtained at UCC. For the academic year 2008/2009, he was Visiting Professor at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Oviedo in Spain. He has more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has contributed to international texts on suicide epidemiology as well as contributing to Irish national suicide prevention strategies.

#### Dr Eve Griffin

Eve holds a Health Research Board Emerging Investigator Award (2018-2023) and is Principal Investigator of the PRISM Project (Providing Improved Care for Self-harm: A mixed-methods study of intervention, implementation and economic outcomes from a national clinical programme). Eve is also a collaborator on the Horizon 2020-funded project MENTUPP.

Eve graduated with a PhD in Applied Psychology from University College Cork in 2011. Her research interests include the epidemiology of self-harm, as well as the management of self-harm in clinical settings. She has more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications on the topic of self-harm. Eve has previously worked as the Manager of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland. She has been involved in a number of EU consortia including OSPI-Europe and is the national data administrator for the European Injury Database (IDB) in Ireland. In addition, she has over ten years' lecturing experience and is a course writer for Dublin City University's Open Education Unit.

#### Dr Mary Joyce

Mary is a Research Psychologist who works as Manager of the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland and Senior Post-doctoral researcher at the NSRF. Mary graduated with a PhD in Applied Psychology from University College Cork in 2013. Following on from this, she worked as coordinator of the National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Project Ireland for which a national multi-site implementation and evaluation was carried out over a five-year period. Her research interests include the evaluation of interventions for individuals with high risk self-harm and improving access to services for individuals who self-harm.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Mary also collaborates with the Northern Ireland Public Health Agency on the Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm.

## Professor Ella Arensman, Professor of Public Mental Health in the School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health, UCC and Chief Scientist NSRF

Ella is a Professor of Public Mental Health in the School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health, UCC and Chief Scientist NSRF. She has 36 years' experience and has established an extensive multidisciplinary research programme in suicide prevention and mental health research, which has led to more than 200 publications.

Ella as held multiple leadership roles, including President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (2013-2017), Vice President of the European Alliance Against Depression, Steering Group member of the National Cross-Sectoral Steering Group for *Connecting for Life*, 2015-2024and International COVID-19 Suicide Prevention Research Collaboration. She is an Expert Advisor for the World Health Organization and was involved in establishing the NSRF's WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Research in Suicide Prevention. In 2021, she led a successful interdisciplinary application under the HRB Collaborative Doctoral Awards: 'Early Identification of Suicide and Self-Harm Risk and Comorbid Mental and Physical Disorders: An Interdisciplinary Training, Research and Intervention Programme' (MHAINTAIN), which provides funding for five PhD Scholars over five years (€1.5 million).

#### **Financial review**

A summary of the results for the financial year are set out on page 23.

The members have no beneficial interest in the company as there is no share capital and the company is limited by guarantee.

The statement of financial activities shows net outgoing funds for the financial year of  $\in$ 32,667 (2021 net incoming funds:  $\in$ 4,869) with total incoming resources from the Health Service Executive, other agencies and other income amounting to  $\in$ 1,551,467 (2021:  $\in$ 1,345,223) and total resources expended amounting to  $\in$ 1,584,134 (2021:  $\in$ 1,340,354).

#### **Reserves policy and financial position**

#### **Reserves** policy

A formal policy on reserves was updated and agreed at a meeting of the directors held in 2021. The board has set a reserves policy which requires that:

- reserves be maintained at a level which ensures the company's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty, and

- a proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the company's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It takes into account:

- the risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted,

- planned activity level, and

- the organisation's commitments.

The following headings were used in the development of an updated policy:

- the existing reserves policy, which the directors updated for 2021 and going forward. The directors further agreed that €50,000 should be invested in a State Savings Solidarity Bond for 5 years. The current rate of interest is 3% per annum. Accordingly, this will yield a return of €1,500 at maturity,

- assessment of risk against each category of income and expenditure,

- future activity levels and likely requirements on reserves, and
- organisational commitments.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Financial position

The balance sheet shows total charity funds of €188,221 (2021: €265,770) all of which are required to:

- Ensure that the charity can continue to provide the services that are listed as the charity's principal objectives;
- Provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears;
- Meet contractual obligations as they fall due;
- Meet unexpected costs if these arise.

Based on this, the directors are satisfied that the charity holds sufficient reserves to allow the charity to continue to operate successfully.

#### Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required, not exceeding  $\leq 1.00$  per member.

The charity was established under a constitution which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its constitution and managed by a board of directors. The Registrar of Business Names in the Companies Registration Office has granted the company permission to use the name of National Suicide Research Foundation.

#### Board of Directors

The National Suicide Research Foundation is governed by a board of directors with a minimum number of 5 and a maximum number of 11 directors. The board meets 4 or 5 times each year. Each director's term of office is three years. A chairperson is elected by the board of directors whose term of office is also three years. At each Annual General Meeting one third of the directors elected from the membership retire by rotation and are eligible for reelection.

The process for nominations and voting is laid out in the Election Rules document which is posted on the website and made available to all members.

There is a clear division of responsibility in the company with the board retaining control over major decisions. The board of directors retain overall responsibility for the strategic development of the company.

#### Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Board Members

All newly appointed directors receive a Board Induction Folder on appointment. This contains the following documentation: a Board Handbook, the Board-member Code of Conduct, the NSRF Governing Documents, the Strategic Plan, Board Minutes from the previous 12 months, Reports of the Chief Executive Officer from the previous 12 months, the annual budget and other relevant documentation. Board Members also get complete information on how the NSRF demonstrates its full compliance with the Governance Code. The Chief Executive Officer schedules a 2-hour Induction Meeting with each newly appointed director in the first month following appointment, at which a sub-set of information ustomised for each new member is made available.

#### **Board Subgroups**

The company has three Standing Board Sub-committees, namely:

- Operations Sub-committee
- Research Advisory Sub-committee
- Audit, Finance and Risk Management Sub-committee.

#### **Organisational Structure and How Decisions are Made**

The NSRF's main office is in Cork and staff members are based in Cork or in locations throughout the country. The team is led by the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Research and the Chief Scientist who report to the board.

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Although ultimate responsibility for the governance of the NSRF rests with the Board of Directors, certain duties and responsibilities are delegated from the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, theDirector of Research and the Chief Scientist and through them to the members of the staff team. These duties include implementation of the strategic plan; leading and managing the NSRF's staff members, programmes, projects, finances and all other administrative aspects so that the NSRF's ongoing mission, vision, and strategies are fulfilled within the context of the NSRF's values as approved by the Board of Directors.

Certain decisions are specifically reserved for the Board and include:

- The Company's strategic plans and annual operating Budgets
- Projects outside the scope of the strategic plan
- Business acquisitions and disposals
- Litigation
- Appointment/Removal of Subgroup Chairs and Members
- Appointment/Removal of the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Research, Chief Scientist
- Appointment/Removal of Auditors
- Approval of Borrowing/Finance Facilities
- Approval of new staff positions
- Approval of HR Contracts exceeding €40,000 per annum
- Annual Review of Risk and Internal Control
- Approval of policies and procedures and Board nominations.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for preparing materials for Board consideration and for preparing materials for any strategic planning process.

When the NSRF agrees to co-operate formally with other organisations on specific projects or in specific work areas, the agreements are determined by a Memorandum of Understanding/Service Arrangement or a form of written agreement which is approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **Internal Controls**

The National Suicide Research Foundation conducts an annual Risk Review process that is assessed in detail by the Audit, Finance and Risk Management subgroup with senior management and ultimately reviewed and signed off by the Board of Directors. This process involves identification of the major risks to which the NSRF is exposed, an assessment of their impact and likelihood of happening and risk mitigation actions for each.

The quarterly report of the Operations Subcommittee to the board contains a section on risk analysis updating the board regarding the status of the most acute risks to the NSRF and this is reviewed at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **Transparency and Public Accountability**

The Board believes that the National Suicide Research Foundation and all organisations with charitable status must be fully accountable to the general public, providing detailed information on where its funds come from and on what they are spent. The NSRF's annual Financial Statements when approved by the Board of Directors are submitted to the Companies Registration Office and are published on the website www.nsrf.ie, under the About Us section.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have ultimate responsibility for managing risk and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of the charity. The directors carry out an annual audit and review the risks on an ongoing basis. The directors are satisfied that adequate systems of governance, supervision, procedures and internal controls are in place to mitigate the exposure to major risks and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks.

The directors have identified that the key risks facing the company relate to the risk of a decrease in the level of grant funding, the increase in compliance requirements in accordance with company, health and safety and general data protection legislation, and ensuring security of the company's sensitive data, reputational risk and other operational risks.

The company mitigates these risks as follows:

#### **Financial risk**

- The charity continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets and projections. The charity has a policy of maintaining significant cash reserves and it has also developed a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities

- Financial information is subject to detailed review at board level allowing for continuous monitoring of the company's operations and financial status.

#### Operational/internal control risk

- The risk is minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and the requirements for budgets covering all activities

- Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation to protect staff, data collectors and service providers.

#### Reputational/compliance risk

- In common with many charities, the company's principal risk is reputational damage. Reputation damage could be caused by an event either within or outside the company's control. In order to mitigate this risk the charity continues to adopt best practices

- The charity closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an on-going basis by ensuring all accreditation is up to date.

#### Accounting records

The company's directors are aware of their responsibilities, under sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 as to whether in their opinion, the accounting records of the company are sufficiently adequate to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and are discharging their responsibility by:

1) employing qualified and experienced staff,

- 2) ensuring that sufficient company resources are available for the task,
- 3) liaising with the company's auditors/seeking external professional accounting advice, and
- 4) arranging to guard against falsification of the records.

The accounting records are held at the company's business premises, Room 4.36 Western Gateway Building, University College Cork, Cork. T12 YF9N.
### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Post reporting date events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of the affairs in the financial period subsequent to the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

From a financial perspective, there is unlikely to be a reduction in the NSRF's annual funding. Instead, because of the increased awareness nationally and internationally of the need to safeguard the mental health of the population, funding bodies are making additional funding available for research. In line with HSE policy, the 2023 Service Arrangement and associated Programme of Work were agreed with the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) before 28 February 2023. The funding for the running of the Registry and the agreed programme of research has been increased for 2023 and an additional once-off sum of  $\in$ 38,745 to offset inflationary cost increases has been received. The NSRF has an overall agreement with the HSE NOSP for the duration of *Connecting for Life*, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2024. In addition, the NSRF has a multitude of ongoing research projects, including new projects that commenced in 2022, that are outlined in the Description of Activities above.

#### **Future developments**

The company's future plans include making applications to various funding bodies for new funding for research projects with a success rate of two out of three grant applications. As of March 2023, the NSRF has been successful in obtaining additional grant funding for two new EU-funded research projects that will commence in 2023, PERMANENS and MENTBEST as outlined below:

PERMANENS involves the development of a prototype of a Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS), i.e., a medical software programme that assists clinicians in the personalised management of suicide risk. The project aims to innovate current clinical practice by increasing the prediction accuracy of suicide risk assessment; enabling risk assessment for inadequate treatment delivery among patients with suicide risk; enabling fine-grained clinical risk stratification; enabling the personalised matching of the identified risk profiles with effective treatment in order to improve indicated and tailored treatment trajectories among patients with suicide risk. Data for the project will be obtained from population-representative electronic registries from Ireland (National Self-Harm Registry), Norway, Sweden, and Catalonia (Spain). Machine learning techniques will be used to develop accurate and clinically useful prediction models for suicide and adverse healthcare trajectories, including the identification of most important risk factors.

MENTBEST involves the use of proven community-based interventions and innovative technologies to prevent and mitigate the mental health challenges associated with dramatic and rapid change in Europe, focusing on five vulnerable groups: migrants/refugees, older people, younger people, long-term unemployed, and those with mental disorders. To address these important mental-health challenges, MENTBEST will adapt and extend the widely deployed and proven community-based 4-level intervention programme of the European Alliance against Depression (EAAD), expanding its field of application beyond clinical depression and suicide prevention to create an intervention programme for sub-diagnostic mental health problems such as depressive symptoms and mental distress, and for resilience. MENTBEST will specifically include evidence-based intervention programme which will increase their mental health competency by using long-term data they generate via their smartphone for self-management. MENTBEST will validate and refine the new intervention programme in five different countries and test the smartphone app in three countries, representing different levels of socioeconomic development and types of healthcare systems.

#### Auditor

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, H&A Accountancy Services Limited t/a Hickey & Associates will continue in office as auditors of the company.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### Statement on relevant audit information to auditor

Each of the directors in office at the date of approval of this annual report confirms that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that he / she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself / herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

On behalf of the board

Margaret Kelleher Director Barry McGale Director

Date: 16 June 2023

# DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### General responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement Of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS Charities SORP) (2018) effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, known as the 'SORP' (the financial reporting framework). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

Margaret Kelleher Director

Date: 16 June 2023

Barry McGale Director

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# TO THE MEMBERS OF SUICIDE RESEARCH FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes In Funds, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement Of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS Charities SORP) (2018) effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, known as the 'SORP' (the financial reporting framework) and issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2022 and of its net incoming resources for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;* and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

# TO THE MEMBERS OF SUICIDE RESEARCH FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Respective responsibilities**

#### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the company's financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/ International-Standards-on-Auditing-(Ireland)/ISA-700-(Ireland). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

# TO THE MEMBERS OF SUICIDE RESEARCH FOUNDATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

#### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Owen Hickey for and on behalf of:

H&A Accountancy Services Limited t/a Hickey & Associates Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 16 June 2023

Unit 2, Bowling Green White Street Cork

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Restricted funds €	Unrestricte fund <b>s</b> €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Incoming Resources from:	3				
Private donations		-	-	-	-
Investment income		-	-	-	2
Generated income - lectures and fees		-	5,739	5,739	3,401
Grant income		1,545,728		1,545,728	1,341,820
Total incoming resources	4	1,545,728	5,739	1,551,467	1,345,223
Resources Expended on:					
Payroll costs including social insurance costs		(1,355,995)	(4,501)	(1,360,496)	(1,148,772)
Pension costs		(25,568)	-	(25,568)	(34,202)
Recruitment costs		(1,633)	-	(1,633)	-
Data collection costs Data collection travel costs		(12,301)	-	(12,301)	(17,890) (27,865)
Travel, meetings and conferences		(41,026) (39,173)	- (124)	(41,026) (39,297)	(27,865) (4,859)
Premises costs		(31,888)	(124)	(31,888)	(34,264)
Professional and related fees		(46,993)	(3)	(46,996)	(41,581)
IT costs		(18,708)	-	(18,708)	(25,023)
Other administration costs		(5,110)	(1,111)	(6,221)	(5,898)
Total resources expended	5	(1,578,395)	(5,739)	(1,584,134)	(1,340,354)
Net movement in funds for the financial year before taxation		(32,667)	-	(32,667)	4,869
Tax on net movement	10			-	
Net movement in funds for the financial year		(32,667)		(32,667)	4,869
Reconciliation of funds:		€	€	€	€
Net movement in funds for the financial year		(32,667)	-	(32,667)	4,869
Funds brought forward Transfer from restricted reserve fund to		44,882	220,888	265,770	277,596
restricted income Transfer from restricted income to restricted	3	(44,882)		(44,882)	-
reserve fund					(16,695)
Funds carried forward		(32,667)	220,888	188,221	265,770

# BALANCE SHEET

## AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notos	202	2 €	2021 €	€
	Notes	€	£	e	e
<b>Fixed assets</b> Tangible assets	11		4,871		2,495
Current assets					
Debtors	13	41,621		49,128	
Cash at bank and in hand		590,328		670,673	
		631,949		719,801	
Creditors: amounts falling due within	14	,		,	
one year		(448,599)		(456,526)	
Net current assets			183,350		263,275
Total assets less current liabilities			188,221		265,770
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds			(32,667)		44,882
Unrestricted funds			(32,007) 220,888		44,002 220,888
			220,000		220,000
Total charity funds	18		188,221		265,770
	10				200,110

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 16 June 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:

Margaret Kelleher Director Barry McGale Director

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Restricted U	Restricted Unrestricted	
	reserves	reserves	Total
	€	€	€
Balance at 1 January 2021	61,577	216,019	277,596
Financial year ended 31 December 2021:			
Net movement in funds for the financial year	-	4,869	4,869
Transfers	(16,695)	-	(16,695)
Balance at 31 December 2021	44,882	220,888	265,770
Financial year ended 31 December 2022:			
Net movement in funds for the financial year	(32,667)	-	(32,667)
Transfers	(44,882)	-	(44,882)
Balance at 31 December 2022	(32,667)	220,888	188,221

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
Cash flows from operating activities Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	21		(75,816)		6,551
Investing activities Purchase of tangible fixed assets Interest received		(4,529)		2	
Net cash (used in)/generated from inves activities	sting		(4,529)		2
Net cash used in financing activities					
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cas equivalents	sh		(80,345)		6,553
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	financial		670,673		664,120
Cash and cash equivalents at end of fin year	ancial		590,328 		670,673

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### **Company information**

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee is primarily engaged in the investigation into the causes of suicide and self-harm in Ireland and undertaking research into various topics relating to suicide and self-harm in order to provide a knowledge base for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention and to provide training and positive mental health programmes.

Suicide Research Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital, and is domiciled and incorporated in Ireland, company registration number 224676. The company is tax resident in Ireland.

The registered office is 1 Perrott Avenue, College Road, Cork. The company's principal place of business is 4.28 Western Gateway Building, University College Cork, Cork.

The significant accounting policies adopted by the company and applied consistently in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland as modified by the Statement Of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS Charities SORP) (2018) effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, known as the 'SORP' (the financial reporting framework), which have been applied consistently (except as otherwise stated).

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and on a going concern basis, modified to include certain items at fair value.

The financial statements are prepared in euros, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest  $\in$ .

#### 1.2 Going concern

We acknowledge that we are required to assess our company's ability to continue as a going concern.

We are aware of the company's financial position. We have prepared the Financial Statements on the going concern basis, having considered the company's performance, cash-flow forecasts, and its future business plans. The statement of financial activities shows net outgoing funds for the financial year of €32,667 (2021 net incoming funds: €4,869) with total incoming resources from the Health Service Executive, other agencies and other resources amounting to €1,551,467 (2021: €1,345,223) and total resources expended amounting to €1,584,134 (2021: €1,340,354), which included €44,882 (2021: €16,695) of restricted funds brought forward and taken to income in 2022. The balance sheet shows total charity funds of €188,221 (2021: €265,770).

From a financial perspective, as a result of COVID-19 there was no impact on the NSRF, but current inflationary pressures have impacted the company. The Board and management team continue to identify, assess, and plan for several financial outcomes and have received additional funding from the HSE and the Department of health to counteract the inflationary pressures.

Having considered the cash flow forecasts, current and anticipated income levels, and government funding together with current levels of reserves, we confirm that we have a reasonable expectation that the company has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of this report, and accordingly, continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### (Continued)

#### 1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the financial year in which the charity is entitled to the income, when the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources represent grant income, private donations and investment income.

Grants from government and other agencies have been included in income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives where these amount to a contract for services provided, for example monies received for core funding, but as donations where the funds are given with greater freedom of use.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance and included within grant income.

Voluntary donations are recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, has certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured, which is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Grants relating to expenditure to be incurred in a future accounting period received in advance are deferred and recognised in the financial period to which they relate.

No incoming resources have been included in the statement of financial activities net of expenditure.

#### 1.4 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Resources expended include any VAT which cannot be recovered, and are reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example on estimated usage.

Resources expended have been allocated to the categories listed on the statement of financial activities.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Professional and related fees, IT costs and other administration costs are costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit and accountancy fees, costs of legal advice, maintenance of the data base and its security and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including the cost of directors' meetings.

Resources expended are allocated based on activity (no fund raising activities) and liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party as a result of past transactions or events.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### (Continued)

#### 1.5 Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving public accountability of the charity (including audit fees) and costs in respect of its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support and governance costs are apportioned directly to the activity to which they relate.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at historical cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Computer equipment

20% Straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to the statement of financial activities.

The company's policy is to review the remaining useful economic lives and residual values of assets on an ongoing basis and to adjust the depreciation charge to reflect the remaining estimated useful economic life and residual value.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### (Continued)

#### 1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

#### Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through surplus and deficit, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### (Continued)

#### Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.10 Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable status under sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity Number CHY 11351.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the financial year in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

The company contributes to various defined contribution pension plans for the benefit of its employees. The cost to the company of the contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities in the financial year they are payable. The pension plans are held in the names of the individual employees/ members and thus the assets held in those plans are not included in the company's assets.

#### 1.13 Government grants

Current revenue grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received. Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities in the financial year in which they are received, or when the relative expenditure takes place, whichever is the later.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### (Continued)

#### 1.14 Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at the rates of exchange ruling at the financial year end. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction payment or receipt. All differences in foreign currency translations between the rates ruling at the dates of the transactions and the dates of payment or receipt are credited or debited to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.15 Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised at the transaction prices (present value of cash payable to the creditors). Interest expenses are recognised in the statement of financial activities in the financial year in which they are charged.

Borrowings are classified as appropriate, given that the company has a right to defer settlement of some of the liabilities for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

#### 1.16 Fund accounting

The following funds are operated by the charity:

#### **Restricted Funds**

Restricted Funds represent grants, donations and sponsorships received which can only be used for particular purposes specified by the grantors, donors or sponsorship programmes binding on the directors/ trustees. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the charity.

#### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds includes general funds and designated funds and it represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the directors/trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

#### 1.17 Services provided by directors/trustees

For the purposes of these financial statements, no monetary value has been placed on the administrative and management services provided by the directors/trustees, except under contracts of employment by the company.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the financial year in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that financial year, or in the financial year of the revision and future financial years where the revision affects both current and future financial years.

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below.

#### **Critical judgements**

#### Going concern

The directors have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The directors have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these financial statements and have included a detailed note under accounting policy 1.2.

The directors of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The directors are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### Debtors accruals and deferred income

The company estimates the debtors accruals and deferred income liabilities in relation to projects on a basis of performance carried out under the contract before and after the financial year end. The basis for each debtor's accrual and deferred income liability is the contract term remaining as a proportion of the entire contract term in relation to the total funds received/receivable under the contract by the financial year end date less funding already received up to 31 December of each financial year.

In the case of core funding for the Foundation and the Registry it was agreed with the HSE NOSP that excess funding received in 2021 or carried forward from 2020 would be deferred to 2022 for 2022 deliverables.

#### Establishing useful lives for the purposes of depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets comprise computer equipment only. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated life of the asset concerned which in the case of computer equipment is considered to be 5 years with no residual values as the company is required to pay for the computers to be disposed of. The directors regularly review these asset lives and change them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset lives can have a significant impact on depreciation for the financial period.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 3 Incoming resources

The incoming resources of the company for the financial year have been wholly derived from its principal activity and is mostly undertaken in the Republic of Ireland.

Grant income comprises restricted revenue grants made by the Health Service Executive National Office for Suicide Prevention (HSE NOSP) and other agencies to fund the provision of specific deliverables under performance related contracts with each of the agencies. The amounts of such grants received during the financial year from the Irish Exchequer or similar Irish grant givers are detailed below. All grants from the Health Service Executive and other agencies where performance conditions were attached are classified as grant income in the statement of financial activities. Over 50% of the charity's funding derives from the Exchequer.

Agency - HSE Grant type - HSE NOSP for foundation Revenue Grant Purpose - Connecting For Life Strategy Service Arrangement Total grant - €299,399 - 2022 Taken to Income & expenditure - €299,399 plus €35,647 from restricted funds forward Received in financial year - €299,399 Remaining in restricted reserves at year end - €Nil Expended - €335,046 Term - January 2020 to December 2024 Date received - monthly Restriction on use - Service Arrangement Tax clearance - Yes

Agency - HSE Grant type - HSE NOSP for National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Revenue Grant Purpose - Connecting For Life Strategy Service Arrangement Total grant - €670,537 - 2022 Taken to Income & expenditure - €670,537 plus €9,235 from restricted funds forward Received in financial year - €670,537 Deferred at year end - €Nil Expended - €679,772 Term - January 2020 to December 2024 Date received - monthly Restriction on use - Service Arrangement Tax clearance - Yes

Agency - HSE CHO4 Grant type - National Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) Revenue Grant Purpose - Training of DBT teams in Community Mental health setting around Ireland and evaluation of the national programme Total grant - Unknown, varies from year to year Taken to Income & expenditure - €134,771 Received in financial year - €113,970 Deferred at year end - €57,333 Expended - €134,771 Term - Ongoing until June 2023. Date received - Periodic Restriction on use - Service Agreement Tax clearance - Yes

In addition the company received €8,227 from the HSE for a S39 Revenue grant for funding for pay restoration in October 2022. This has been deferred until 2023 when the last tranche of funding will be received.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 3 Incoming resources

Deferred at year end - €Nil Expended - €39,245 Term - Ongoing in 2023 Date received - April 2022

Tax clearance - Yes

Restriction on use - Service Arrangement

(Continued)

Agency - HSE NOSP Grant type - Coronial Data & Clinical Care Programme Revenue Grant Purpose - Coronial Data & Clinical Care Programme Total grant - Varies from year to year Taken to Income & expenditure - €65,940 Received in financial year - €65,172 Deferred at year end - €646 Expended - €65,940 Term - Ongoing Date received - November 2022 Restriction on use - Service Arrangement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - Health Research Board (HRB) Grant type - Emerging Investigators Award Revenue Grant Purpose - Providing Improved Care For Self Harm Study (PRISM) Total grant - €73,342.58 - 4 year programme 2019 to 2023 Taken to Income & expenditure - €16,206 Received in financial year - €27,348 Deferred at year end - €12,854 Expended - €Nil Term - Ongoing until 2023 Date received - November 2022 Restriction on use - Service Agreement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - HSE CHO 04 Grant type - International Mental Health Collaborating Centre - Open Dialogue Initiative Revenue Grant Purpose - HSE Commissioned Independent Appraisal of the Open Dialogue Initiative in Cork Kerry **Community Healthcare** Total grant - €30,000 Taken to Income & expenditure - €5,742 Received in financial year - €Nil Deferred at year end - €Nil Expended - €5,742 Term - Ended Date received - None in 2022 Restriction on use - Service Arrangement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - Higher Education Authority (HEA) Grant type - Revenue Grant Purpose - Connecting Suicide & Self Harm Researchers on the island of Ireland Total grant - €56,168 Taken to Income & expenditure - €39,245 Received in financial year - €36,205

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 3 Incoming resources

(Continued)

Agency - HSE NOSP Grant type - Revenue Grant First Grant Round Scheme Purpose - Evaluation of Bereavement Support Service Total grant - €31,953 Taken to Income & expenditure - €24,864 Received in financial year - €21,952 Deferred at year end - €5,154 Expended - €24,864 Term - Ongoing until June 2022 Date received - Periodic Restriction on use - Service Agreement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - Health Research Board (HRB) Grant type - Data Collection Purpose - Collection of suicide /probable suicide deaths from Coronial records Total grant - €30,126 plus Employer's PRSI and travel & subsistence costs - 2022 Taken to Income & expenditure - €37,139 Received in financial year - €35,768 Deferred at year end - €Nil Expended - €37,139 Term - April to December 2022 Date received - November 2022 Restriction on use - Service Agreement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - HSE NOSP Grant type - Self Harm Training Programme Purpose - Self harm Assessment & Management in General Hospitals Training Programme Total grant - €20,000 - 2022 Taken to Income & expenditure - €14,524 Received in financial year - €Nil Deferred at year end - €5,476 Expended - €14,524 Term - 2022 Date received - 2021 Restriction on use - Service Agreement Tax clearance - Yes Agency - HSE NOSP Grant type - Secondment Arrangements Purpose - 1 arrangement for an NSRF employee to function within NOSP and one arrangement to develop a third level Self Harm & Suicide Module Total grants - Cost of employee remuneration plus Employer's PRSI and Employer's Pension Contributions Taken to Income & expenditure - €5,260 and €5,039 Received in financial year - €4,930 and €20,000 Deferred at year end - €Nil and €14,961 Expended - €5,260 and €5,039 Term - November 2022 to October 2023 and November 2022 to February 2024

Date received - Both in December 2022

Restriction on use - Service Agreement

Tax clearance - Yes

In addition the company received: - A Revenue Grant of €100,000 from HSE NOSP in December 2021 for the National Suicide and Self Harm Observatory project expected to commence 2023 after the tender for the evaluation is finalised by NOSP. These funds have been deferred to 2023.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Incoming resources

	2022 €	2021 €
Restricted Income		
HSE NOSP - National Suicide Research Foundation 2022	299,399	300,000
HSE NOSP - National Suicide Research Foundation brought forward		
from 2021 - Foundation	35,647	16,695
HSE NOSP - National Self-Harm Registry Ireland	670,537	637,240
HSE NOSP - National Suicide Research Foundation brought forward		
from 2021 - Registry	9,235	-
HSE CHO4 - National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Training Teams	134,771	95,879
International Association for Suicide Prevention Project	7,206	9,021
World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre	35,576	13,957
HSE NOSP - Coronial Data & Clinical Care Programme	65,940	60,619
Northern Ireland Public Health Agency - Statistical Analysis &		
Independent Verification of NI Self Harm Registry	34,895	34,080
European Commission Horizon 2020 Programme MENTUPP, Mental		50 740
Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings	57,385	56,712
HSE CHO4 - Open Dialogue Initiative	5,742	13,772
HRB Emerging Investigators Award - Providing Improved Care For	40.005	4.007
Self Harm Study (PRISM)	16,205	4,867
HEA - C - SSHRI - Connecting Suicide & Self Harm Researchers in	39,245	19,963
Ireland Project HSE NOSP Evaluation of Bereavement Support Service	24,864	23,888
European Alliance Against Depression (EAAD) Best Project	47,119	20,654
HSE S39 Pay Restoration Funding	47,119	34,473
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	-	54,475
HSE NOSP/HRB Data Collection Project	37,139	-
HSE NOSP - Self Harm Assessment & Management in General Hospitals Project - SAMAGH	14,524	
HSE NOSP Secondment Programme	5,260	-
HSE NOSP Secondment Programme - Third Level Module Development	5,039	-
HSE NOSP Secondment Programme - Third Level Module Development	5,039	-
	1,545,728	1,341,820
Unrestricted Income	F 700	2 404
Generated income - lectures, fees, etc.	5,739	3,401
Interest on bank deposits Note 9	-	2
	5,739	3,403
Total funding	1,551,467	1,345,223

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 5 Analysis of resources expended

Restricted	Foundation and Research	Registry	2022 €	2021 €
Wages and salaries including social				
insurance costs	712,190	643,805	1,355,995	1,145,371
Pension costs	22,769	2,799	25,568	34,202
Support costs	-	-	-	599
Recruitment costs	-	1,633	1,633	-
Data collection costs	-	12,301	12,301	17,890
Data collection travel costs	-	41,026	41,026	27,865
Travel, meetings and conferences	34,774	4,399	39,173	4,260
Fees and subscriptions	27,924	1,583	29,507	25,693
Stationery, printing and postage	2,179	2,078	4,257	5,009
Telephones	294	276	570	697
Rent	8,933	8,934	17,867	21,041
Insurance	5,609	5,689	11,298	9,918
Bank charges	492	361	853	889
Accountancy fees	4,438	4,438	8,876	8,508
Audit fees	4,305	4,305	8,610	7,380
Computer running costs	7,154	11,554	18,708	25,023
Depreciation	-	2,153	2,153	2,608
	831,061	747,334	1,578,395	1,336,953
Unrestricted				
Wages and salaries including social				
insurance costs	4,501	-	4,501	3,401
Travel, meetings and conferences	124	-	124	-
Fees and subscriptions	3	-	3	-
Stationery, printing and postage	9	-	9	-
Sundry expenses	50	-	50	-
Staff welfare costs	1,052		1,052	-
	(5,739)	-	5,739	3,401
Total resources expended	835,562	747,334	1,584,134	1,340,354

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6	Auditor's remuneration		
	Fees payable to the company's auditors:	2022 €	2021 €
	For audit services		
	Audit of the financial statements of the company	8,610	7,380
	For other services		
	All other non-audit services	8,876	8,508
7	Net outgoing resources (2021: Net incoming resources)	2022	2021
	Net outgoing resources (2021: net incoming resources) are stated after charging:	€	€
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,153	2,608

#### 8 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the financial year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Foundation	18	14
Registry	18	17
	36	31
Their aggregate remuneration comprised:		
	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	1,240,197	1,049,419
Social security costs	120,299	99,353
Pension costs	25,568	34,202
	1,386,064	1,182,974

No remuneration was paid to any director during the financial year and the directors had no financial interests in the company at any time during the financial year. There was one employee (2021: None) who received employee benefits excluding employer pension costs of between  $\leq 100,000$  and  $\leq 110,000$  during the financial year. There was no employee (2021: One) who received employee benefits excluding employer pension costs of between  $\leq 100,000$  and  $\leq 110,000$  during the financial year. There was no employee (2021: One) who received employee benefits excluding employer pension costs of between  $\leq 80,000$  and  $\leq 90,000$  during the financial year.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 9 Interest receivable and similar income

	2022 €	2021 €
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	-	2
Investment income includes the following:		
Interest on financial assets not measured at fair value through statement of financial activities		2

#### 10 Taxation

12

The company has obtained exemption from the Revenue Commissioners in respect of corporation tax, it being a company not carrying on a business for the purpose of making a surplus. DIRT tax is payable on any interest income received in excess of €32. No provision has been made in these financial statements for corporation tax as the company is exempt from corporation tax.

No provision has been made in the financial statements for deferred tax as the company is exempt from corporation tax.

#### 11 Tangible fixed assets

-	Compu	ter equipment €
Cost		C
At 1 January 2022		37,300
Additions		4,529
At 31 December 2022		41,829
Depreciation and impairment		
At 1 January 2022		34,805
Depreciation charged in the financial year		2,153
At 31 December 2022		36,958
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2022		4,871
At 31 December 2021		2,495
Financial instruments		
	2022	2021
	€	€
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt & other financial instruments measured at amortised cost	631,949	719,801
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	413,810	426,012

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13	Debtors		
	Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 €	2021 €
	Accrued income	41,621	49,128
		41,621	49,128

Accrued income relates to grants received under contracts where the performance conditions have been completed by the financial year end and the funding is owing to the company at the financial year end.

#### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	€	€
PAYE and social security	34,789	30,514
Accruals	34,138	42,296
Deferred income	379,672	383,716
	448,599	456,526

Deferred income relates to grants received under contracts where the performance conditions have not been completed by the financial year end as the periods of these contracts extend over more than one financial year. All such funding received is deferred annually until the performance conditions have been met in accordance with the contracts for each financial year.

#### 15 Deferred grants

	2022 €	2021 €
Arising from government and other agency grants	379,672	383,716
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:	2022 €	2021 €
Current liabilities	379,672	383,716

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16	Retirement benefit schemes		
	Defined contribution schemes	2022 €	2021 €
	Charge to statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes	25,568	34,202

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds.

#### 17 Members' liability

1

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1 per member.

#### 18 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Fixed Assets	Current assets	Current liabilities	Closing Balance
	€	€	€	€
Unrestricted income				
Unrestricted Funds	-	631,949	(411,061)	220,888
Restricted income				
Restricted Funds	4,871	-	(37,538)	(32,667)
	4,871	631,949	(448,599)	188,221

#### 19 **Related party transactions**

During the financial year no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses was made to directors in connection with their duties as directors. There were no other related party transactions during the financial year.

#### 20 Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of the affairs in the financial period subsequent to the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

From a financial perspective, there is unlikely to be a reduction in the NSRF's annual funding. Instead, because of the increased awareness nationally and internationally of the need to safeguard the mental health of the population, funding bodies are making additional funding available for research. In line with HSE policy, the 2023 Service Arrangement and associated Programme of Work were agreed with the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) before 28 February 2023. The funding for the running of the Registry and the agreed programme of research has been increased for 2023 and an additional once-off sum of €38,745 to offset inflationary cost increases has been received. The NSRF has an overall agreement with the HSE NOSP for the duration of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 21 Cash generated from operations

	2022 €	2021 €
Net incoming resources for the financial year after tax	(32,667)	4,869
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	-	(2)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,153	2,608
Transfer from restricted reserves to current year income	(44,882)	(16,695)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	7,507	(48,107)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(7,927)	63,878
Cash generated from operations	(75,816)	6,551

#### 22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 January 2022	Cash flows 3'	I December 2022
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	670,673	(80,345)	590,328

#### 23 Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on 16 June 2023.

UNAUDITED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	€	2022 €	€	2021 €
Foundation income		335,046		316,695
HSE NOSP - National Suicide Research Foundation - 2022	299,399		300,000	
HSE NOSP - National Suicide Research Foundation - brought forward from 2021	35,647		16,695	
Foundation costs				
Salaries & wages	(259,592)		(225,539)	
Social welfare costs	(22,847)		(20,185)	
Staff pension costs defined contribution	(7,272)		(10,387)	
Rent	(8,933)		(10,520)	
Insurance	(5,609)		(4,919)	
Travelling expenses	(6,409)		-	
Meeting & conference costs	(2,590)		(1,127)	
Postage, printing & stationery	(1,659)		(788)	
Bank charges	(360)		(358)	
Fees, training & subscriptions	(5,815)		(4,181)	
Accountancy fees	(4,438)		(4,254)	
Audit fees	(4,305)		(3,690)	
Computer running costs	(4,943)		(6,652)	
Telecommunications	(274)		(337)	
		(335,046)		(292,937)
		-		23,758
Generated income - fees, lectures etc.		-		-
Funding receivable	5,739		3,401	
Salaries & wages	(4,233)		(3,126)	
Social welfare costs	(268)		(275)	
Travel costs	(24)		-	
Printing, stationery & postage	(9)		-	
Fees & subscriptions	(3)		-	
Meetings & conferences	(100)		-	
Sundry expenses	(50)		-	
Staff welfare costs	(1,052)		-	
HRB Data Collection		-		-
Funding receivable	37,139		-	
Salaries & wages	(27,521)		-	
Social welfare costs	(3,022)		-	
Travel costs	(6,596)		-	
International Association for Suicide Prevention				
Project		-	0.001	-
Funding receivable	7,206		9,021	
Salaries & wages	(6,398)		(7,946)	
Social welfare costs	(688)		(892)	
Bank charges	(120)		(183)	

		2022		2021
	€	2022	€	2021
HSE NOSP - National Dialectical Behaviour				
Therapy Project		-		-
Funding receivable	134,771		95,879	
Salaries & wages	(107,251)		(76,633)	
Social welfare costs	(12,090)		(8,539)	
Travel costs	(2,135)		-	
Stationery & supplies	(38)		-	
Fees & subscriptions	(10,000)		(10,000)	
Meetings & conferences	(1,855)		(70)	
Pension costs	(561)		(408)	
Computer running costs	(841)		(229)	
HEA - C - SSHRI		-		-
Funding receivable	39,245		19,963	
Salaries & wages	(34,301)		(18,111)	
Social welfare costs	(3,349)		(1,596)	
Computer running costs	(100)		(256)	
Travel costs	(895)		-	
Meetings & conferences	(600)		-	
HSE NOSP Bereavement Support		-		-
Funding receivable	24,864		23,888	
Salaries & wages	(13,061)		(16,641)	
Social welfare costs	(2,613)		(1,812)	
Travel costs	(1,264)		(272)	
Printing Stationery & postage	(211)		-	
Telephones	-		(30)	
Computer running expenses	(25)		(1,504)	
Fees and subscriptions	(3,809)		(2,425)	
Meetings & conferences	(2,658)		(137)	
Pension costs	(1,223)		(1,067)	
World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre	05 570	-	40.057	(3,637)
Funding receivable	35,576		13,957	
Salaries & wages	(31,738)		(7,945)	
Social welfare costs	(3,450)		(823)	
Computer running expenses	(376)		(1,522)	
Fees and subscriptions Bank charges	(12)		(3,652) (3,652)	
EAAD - BEST	47 440	-	20.054	-
Funding receivable	47,119		20,654	
Salaries & wages	(41,115)		(13,520)	
Social welfare costs	(3,035)		(1,282)	
Travel costs	(55)		-	
Computer running expenses	(469)		(1,353)	
Stationery, printing & postage	- (150)		(1) (1 530)	
Fees & subscriptions	(150)		(1,530)	
Meetings & conferences Pension costs	- (2.205)		(363) (2.605)	
	(2,295)		(2,605)	

		2022		2021
	€	2022	€	2021
HSE NOSP Pay Restoration				
Funding receivable		-	34,473	-
Salaries & wages	-		(31,724)	
Social welfare costs	-		(31,724) (2,749)	
			(2,749)	
HSE NOSP Secondment Project		-		-
Funding receivable	5,260		-	
Salaries & wages	(4,231)		-	
Social welfare costs	(450)		-	
Travel costs	(221)		-	
Pension costs	(358)		-	
HSE NOSP - Coronial Data & Clinical Care				
Project	05.040	-	CO C10	-
Funding receivable	65,940		60,619	
Salaries & wages	(50,834)		(50,307)	
Social welfare costs	(5,617)		(5,559)	
Travel costs	(5,253)		-	
Computer running expenses	(200)		(477)	
Meetings & conferences	285		-	
Pension costs	(4,321)		(4,276)	
HSE NOSP Third Level Development Module				
Project		-		-
Funding receivable	5,039		-	
Salaries & wages	(4,231)		-	
Social welfare costs	(450)		-	
Pension costs	(358)		-	
Functional International Accord				4.007
Emerging Investigators Award	10.005	-	4.007	4,867
Funding receivable	16,205		4,867	
Salaries & wages	(14,080)		-	
Social welfare costs	(1,403)		-	
Pension costs	(722)		-	
Open Dialogue Initiative		-		-
Funding receivable	5,742		13,772	
Salaries & wages	(5,167)		(11,757)	
Social welfare costs	(455)		(1,035)	
Travel costs	-		(401)	
Stationery & supplies	-		(419)	
Telephones	(20)		(60)	
Computer running expenses	(100)		(100)	

		2022		2021
	€	€	€	€
HSE NOSP SAMAGH Project		_		_
Funding receivable	14,524		-	
Salaries & wages	(4,188)		-	
Social welfare costs	(425)		-	
Travel costs	(1,542)		-	
Telephones	-		-	
Stationery & printing	(219)		-	
Fees & subscriptions	(8,150)		-	
European Commission Horizon 2020				
Programme - MENTUPP		-		-
Funding receivable	57,385		56,712	
Salaries & wages	(43,975)		(41,395)	
Social welfare costs	(4,613)		(4,545)	
Travel costs	(2,171)		-	
Stationery, printing & postage	(52)		(2)	
Computer running expenses	(100)		(2,516)	
Meetings & conferences	(815)		-	
Pension costs	(5,659)		(8,254)	
Foundation net movement in funds		-		24,988

	€	2022 €	€	2021 €
National Self-Harm Registry Ireland Funding receivable		679,772		637,240
HSE NOSP - 2022 funding	670,537		637,240	
HSE NOSP - brought forward from 2021	9,235		-	
SPHERE income				
National Self-Harm Registry costs				
Wages and salaries	(588,281)		(544,775)	
Social welfare costs	(55,524)		(50,061)	
Data Registration Officer recruitment costs	(1,633)		-	
Staff pension costs defined contribution	(2,799)		(7,205)	
Data collectors	(12,301)		(17,890)	
Data collection travel costs	(41,026)		(27,865)	
Rent	(8,934)		(10,521)	
Insurance	(5,689)		(4,999)	
Travelling expenses	(2,276)		(451)	
Meetings & conferences	(2,123)		(1,439)	
Stationery, printing & postage	(2,078)		(3,799)	
Bank charges	(361)		(333)	
Fees, training & subscriptions	(1,583)		(3,905)	
Accountancy fees	(4,438)		(4,254)	
Audit fees	(4,305)		(3,690)	
Computer running costs	(11,554)		(10,414)	
Telecommunications	(276)		(270)	
Support costs	-		(599)	
Depreciation	(2,153)		(2,608)	
		(747,334)		(695,078)
National Self-Harm Registry net movement in funds		(67,562)		(57,838)
National Sen-Haim Registry net movement in funds				
Northern Ireland Registry of Self-Harm		34,895		34,080
Funding receivable	34,895		34,080	
Northern Ireland Statistical Consultancy		34,895		34,080
Overall National Self Harm Registry net movement in 1	unds	(32,667)		(23,758)
Overall operating net movement in funds		(32,667)		4,867



