



# Transgender Equality Network Ireland

**EPATH. Rome 2019**

**The 'State' of Transgender Healthcare in Ireland.**

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Institute of Technology

**EPATH** EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
TRANSGENDER HEALTH

# Introduction

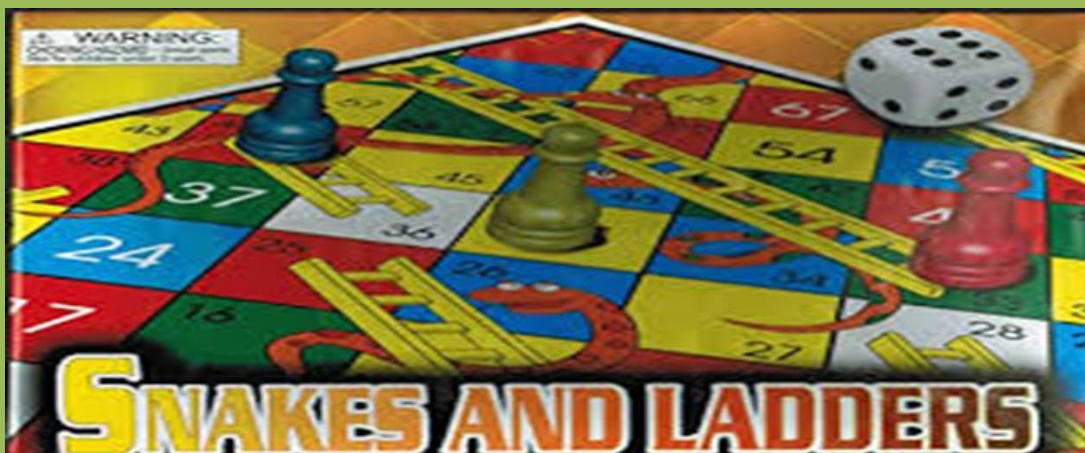
- A Republic Since 1922
- Therefore, we have our own Health Service
- It's called the Health Service Executive (HSE)
- We even have our own flag
- But our Transgender community is problematic (to say the least)



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

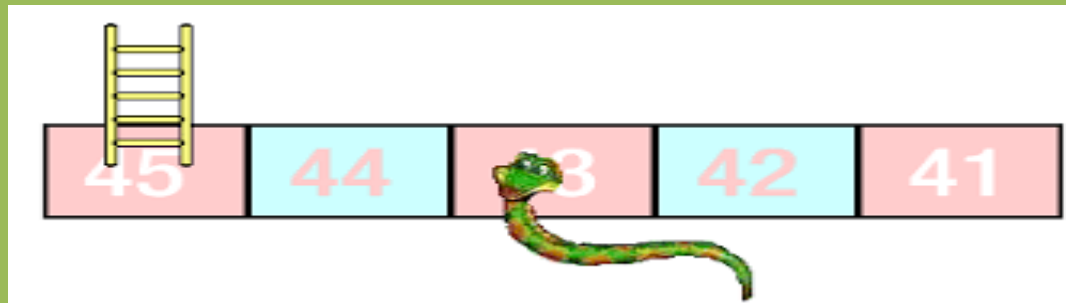


# Developing Trans Healthcare in Ireland; Lots of Ups and Downs



# HSE Funding

- 2012: Core funding from HSE:
- Develop and Deliver Training to healthcare staff throughout Ireland
- Participate on the Development of New Pathways for Trans people



# HSE Led THWG

- Since 2012 TENI have worked in Partnership with HSE to Develop Trans Healthcare Pathways.
- Transgender Health: Proposed Service Development Model for Transgender Children, Adolescents and Adults. HSE 2016.
- 'While some services have been developed to respond to this need there is currently no standardised model of care, clinical guidelines or treatment pathway in place for transgender people (including children and adolescents) in Ireland.' HSE 2016.





# Trying to Find the Ladders and Avoid the Snakes

- The proposed model of care and treatment pathway has been developed through consultation with key professional groups, clinicians, advocates and service users.
- Three national conferences have been organised in recent years:
  1. Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) in 2013;
  2. In collaboration between TENI and the HSE 2015
  3. St. Patrick's Mental Health Services, Dublin in 2016



www.



# Surely the Last Role of the Dice

- ‘The development of services outlined in this paper will require considerable investment at primary, secondary and acute care levels. It will also require a more systematic response to the development of care for transgender people than has existed heretofore in health and social care services’ (HSE).
- ‘The guidelines should be guided by the World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care Version 7’ (HSE).



# Proposed Adult Service

- ‘The proposed model of care is one of ‘stepped care’ which maximises services at local level with a seamless and speedy transition to specialist supports at both a regional and national level
- Resourced multi-disciplinary team to include:
  - 1 WTE Endocrinology post
  - 1 WTE Clinical Nurse Specialist post
  - 1 WTE liaison psychiatry for complex cases
  - 1 WTE Senior Clinical Psychologist
  - 1 WTE Case-load administrator
- Formalised referral process with primary care speech and language services
- Formalised referral process to community and family support services
- Formalised referral process with endocrinology services in Cork, Waterford and Galway ‘ (HSE).



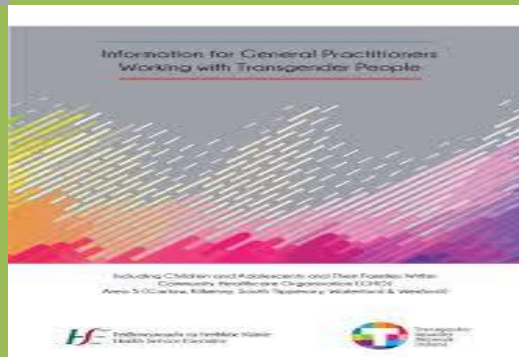


# Proposed Child/Adolescent Service

- Proposed model of care- Children and Adolescents
- Establishment of a National Gender Identity Clinic for children and adolescents with a resourced multi-disciplinary team
- The team should be modelled on international best practice and should include the following posts:
  - One WTE paediatric endocrinologist
  - One WTE child and adolescent psychiatrist
  - One WTE senior clinical psychologist
  - One WTE case manager
  - One WTE Administrator
- Access to ring-fenced speech and language therapy sessions within primary care# □
- Access to community and family support#
- 



# 2 Years Past...

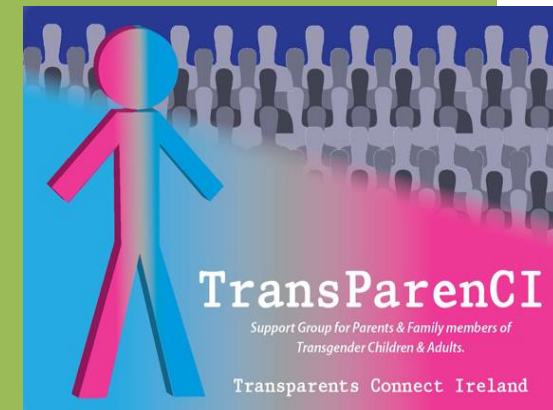


- But we never waste time right?
- Average of 50 Trainings a Year
- Launch Resource for GP's
- HSE CHO 5
- New 'service' for Young People



# TransParenCI & Transformers

- First meeting; Nov 2011 Carlow (n=14)
- Building Sustainability.
- ‘Getting your house sorted’ 2013 (36 people), 2014, 2015’ 2016, 2017. 2018 (171 people).
- Dublin & Waterford 2015
- Kerry & Cork 2018
- Kildare 2019



*“Seeing how much better we now get on as a family is amazing and seeing how more comfortable my son has been being himself since we attended the meetings and the weekend is incredible. We are like a different family now, so much closer than I could have imagined.” – Father of a trans person” Father of a Trans Person*

# School Training 2016/2017

- Post-Primary= 47
- Primary = 17
- Joint Managerial Board
- NAPDP
- Facilitative approach



# GIDS/UK

Developing the Child/Adolescent Service  
Meanwhile Developing Our Own Expertise



[www.teni.ie](http://www.teni.ie)





# Government Announcement Feb 2018

‘Welcoming the announcement, TENI Health and Education Manager Vanessa Lacey said “TENI has consulted extensively within our community and worked consistently with partners from a range of divisions across the HSE, to ensure that the current model of service delivery is person-centred and based on international best practice, as evidenced by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) guidelines.” (ME)



It wasn't long before the snakes appeared



# Current Criteria

- Dublin: All referrals have to be screened by 1 particular Consultant Psychiatrist. Current waiting time 27 months
- Galway: An assessment by Psychiatry or Psychology and referred to endocrinology. Current waiting time 20 months, will make exceptions for people at risk
- Louth: A referral by a mental health professionals. Current waiting time 7 months.



# We Became Aware that we were Sold Magic Beans

- So, we went to see the Minister for Health



# So, where are we now?

- November 2018: TENI, received an invite to attend the Governance Committee in the 'Main adult Centre/Clinic' in Dublin.
- No meeting since; despite a number of enquires from TENI
- TENI receiving a significant increase in complaints regarding the adult 'service'.
- 4 of the 5 positions filled in Adult Service
- Not currently using WPATH Guidelines





# As for the Child/Adolescent Service

- November 2018: GIDS/UK Invited TENI to a meeting with Key HSE Stakeholders in London
  - TAS give an Ultimatum to HSE (Jan 2021)
  - 18 Month Waiting List with GIDS/UK
  - Recently positions being filled
  - Feeling positive and optimistic but always aware...
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- Snakes are Rustling in the Bushes...but they can...



# Summary

- Keep Fighting the Snakes
- Never give up Climbing Ladders
- Has anyone got Wesley Snipes Details?





# Where to find us

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