



MENTAL HEALTH MANIFESTO NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2022

10 HELPFUL
QUESTIONS ON
MENTAL HEALTH FOR
YOU TO ASK YOUR
LOCAL CANDIDATE

"PLANTING THE
SEEDS OF HOPE"





Will you commit to Prioritizing a fully funded community based counselling service?

PIPS are a community mental health service who do not receive government funding.

1



2

Will you commit to ensuring that government funding will accompany any referrals from statutory services into charities?

PIPS receive statutory referrals without funding.



Will you commit to significantly increase the spend on NI mental health services?

England spend £220 per person, ROI spend £200 per person, NI only spend £160 per person.

PIPS receive no core government funding to run their life saving service.

3



Will you commit to provide funding for more than the 6 standard counselling sessions to stop the revolving door of clients moving in and out of many counselling organisations?

At PIPS there are no restriction on the number of sessions for clients.

4



Will you commit to providing dedicated mental health A&E hubs for crisis walk-in clients which are free, immediate and not based on client postcode?

At PIPS we offer this crisis service and are seeing an increase in demand.

5

Will you commit to ensuring statutory services work in proactive partnership with counselling charities to reduce waiting lists?

PIPS provided 11, 300 client sessions during 2021 without government financial support, helping to reduce NHS waiting lists.

6

7

Will you commit to reducing bureaucracy for charities accessing government grant money and free up the speed of delivery to front line services?

PIPS received no financial support through the Mental Health Support Fund in 2021, which was a government response to mental health services during the pandemic.



Will you commit to ensuring that government will publish a monthly database of mental health services to ensure policy makers are using the latest data when making evidence based informed policy decisions? Currently it is virtually impossible to get data on counselling provision in NI. NHS England publishes monthly mental health statistics, including reports on its talking therapies service.

PIPS are calling for an accessible, transparent data set, specifically on mental health services which hold the health service to account.



Will you acknowledge how vitally important the voluntary sector has been in serving communities during covid in the area of mental health?

PIPS continued to offer face to face counselling during the pandemic.



What will you do for our mental health services if you are elected to public office?



In September 2021 the UK Office for Statistics Regulation, published a highly critical review of mental health data in NI. They found:

- Within Northern Ireland there is a scarcity of robust mental health data. Currently there is no single point of access to statistics on mental health with no accurate regional picture of mental health in NI.
- Data is collected in silos by the 5 trusts and data definitions are inconsistent. This is due to a fragmented I.T. infrastructure, which has led to poor data comparability.



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