

I am a member of the public and community volunteer raising awareness of the invisible disability - Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) across Ireland.

It is estimated in reliable research the prevalence of FASD in Ireland is 4.75% the 3rd highest in the world. You will note this estimates is 3 times the prevalence of Autism in Ireland, yet FASD is largely undiagnosed and unrecognised.

Regrettably research also indicates Ireland holds the highest figure of alcohol consumption by pregnant women. Those affected by FASD are unsupported by FASD aware strategies.

If you mine into askaboutalcohol.ie you will find brief reference to FASD. The HSE state "early intervention leads to better outcomes". Sadly this is not the case in Ireland which has a prevention only strategy. The lack of FASD diagnosis and appropriate support hampers those better outcomes.

In September 2021 the UK, published a FASD Salford Prevalence study indicating 1 child in every school year group, both Junior and Senior schools, may be affected by FASD. Given Ireland's estimated FASD prevalence it is likely the numbers would be higher in Ireland.

It is a hallmark of FASD to have deficits in Executive Function, Adaptive Function, Working Memory along with poor impulse control, to name but a few areas affected, many children and adults will end up involved in the judicial arena.

FASD is a brain based condition and has been described since the 1970's. Numerous research papers provide reliable global evidence of FASD. Much is written about FASD and Justice.

I would ask, most sincerely, for this public consultation to address the issue of FASD training and awareness for all those involved in the Justice sector across Ireland.

Parents in our voluntary FASD peer support group say "Intervention is Prevention".

Please see our "who we are" page for more information on our support group and "Justice resource page".

<https://endpae.ie/who-we-are/>

<https://endpae.ie/resources/>

Should you wish to discuss training needs I would be happy to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

Annie Nugent