



# ACTION 28

## Mental Health: Let's Make It Happen

**WHAT?** → The Local Elections provide us with an opportunity to expand the message of our campaign to a wider target audience. Local Councillors have a number of powers and responsibilities that directly impact on the lives of people affected by mental health difficulties.

We want **ALL** candidates to commit to the actions set out in AI's Local Election Mental Health Manifesto, which are:

1. Pass a motion following the election of the new Council calling on the Government to implement its mental health policy, *A Vision for Change*.
2. Actively promote mental health and include those with experience of mental health difficulties in all local consultations and community development projects.
3. Ensure that mental health equality training is provided for local authority personnel, particularly those involved in strategic planning, social inclusion, access and service provision.
4. Map local service need and delivery of employment schemes for people with experience of mental health difficulties.
5. Introduce a protocol between the local authority and the HSE to ensure the housing rights of individuals with experience of mental health difficulties are met.

**WHO?** → We want you to write to ALL local election candidates in your electoral ward

A complete list of local election candidates, broken down according to electoral ward, will be available from April 19<sup>th</sup> on the website [www.micandidate.eu](http://www.micandidate.eu). You can also find out the names of candidates in your area from the main political parties by contacting the party head offices:

Fianna Fail	01 6761551
Fine Gael	016198444
Green Party	016790012
Labour Party	016784700
Sinn Fein	018726100

You can find out which electoral ward you live in by contacting the County or City Council offices or by logging onto [www.electoralareacommittees.ie](http://www.electoralareacommittees.ie) and downloading the relevant Chapter.

**WHEN?** → Send letters to your local election candidate by Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> (**note the extended time frame for this action**)

**Strength in numbers:** Have you joined Amnesty? We rely on membership to make ourselves heard. The more members we have, the stronger we become. You can join today by texting the word JOIN to 51444. You can also join on-line at <http://www.amnesty.ie/join> or simply call the office and we will process your membership over the phone on 01 836 8356.