

**High Level Taskforce on Mental Health and Addiction Challenges of persons interacting with the Criminal Justice System**

**Plenary Group Meeting**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 11am-1pm via videoconference**

**Attendees:**

- Kathleen Lynch; Chair - former Minister of State for Primary Care, Mental Health and Disability
- Ben Ryan; Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Justice, Head of Criminal Justice Policy
- Mary O'Regan; Principal Officer, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy
- Seamus Hempenstall; Principal Officer, Dept. of Health, Mental Health Division
- Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Dept. of Health, Mental Health Unit
- Jim Ryan; Head of Operations for Mental Health Services, HSE
- Pat Bergin; Head of Service, Forensic Mental Health Service, HSE
- Mark Wilson; Director, Probation Service
- John Devlin; Clinical Director, Irish Prison Service
- Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche; An Garda Síochána
- Enda Kelly; Chief Nursing Officer, Irish Prison Service
- Inspector Andrew Lacey; An Garda Síochána
- Deirdre O'Flaherty; Administrative Officer, Dept. of Health, Mental Health Division
- Subramanian Narayanan; Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist & HSE National Clinical Lead in Dual Diagnosis, HSE
- Graham Hopkins; Dept. of Housing, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery Section
- Tony O'Donovan; Principal Officer, Child Welfare Advisor, Children Detention Unit, DCEDIY
- Secretariat – John Dunphy, Oonagh Ffrench and Kerrie Keegan, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

**Apologies:**

- Paula Hilman; Assistant Commissioner, an Garda Síochána
- Dr Eamon Keenan; National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services, HSE
- Prof. Harry Kennedy; Executive Clinical Director, Central Mental Hospital

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome from Chair
2. Minutes - 29 July, 2021
3. Interim Reports of Subgroups - Report from Chairs of Subgroups
4. How Budgets may be affected by recommendations
5. AOB and Date of next meeting

## **1. Welcome from the Chair**

1.1 The Chair welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their commitment and appreciated the momentum that was being created by each subgroup. The Chair re-emphasised the importance of the deadline of January 2022 in terms of finalising the report

## **2. Minutes – 29th July 2021**

2.1 The Minutes dated 29th July 2021 were approved

## **3. Interim Reports of Subgroups - Report from Chairs of Subgroups**

### **3.1 Subgroup 1:**

3.1.1 SG1 advised that their focus was on the expansion on the Adult Caution Scheme and that there is no primary legislation required for this expansion. There would be a need for a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn up during the final phase of the work to align responsibilities

3.1.2 AGS have advised this proposal is achievable and a very positive step in terms of diverting people away from the Criminal Justice System

3.1.3 The Group has reviewed the work completed by Prof. Gulati, University of Limerick and agreed to use the Toronto definition with additions on situational trauma to reflect the academic input

3.1.4 It is hoped that the HLTF final report in January will include the recommendation roll out of the CIT/CAST model in Limerick to wider counties

3.1.5 The D/Justice commended the work of SG1 and the progress that has been made to date. D/Justice advised that if there was further assistance required that AGS should engage with them

3.1.6 It was raised that there are challenges with regard to the nationwide rollout of the CIT/CAST model due to local provisions already in place in some counties

3.1.7 It was agreed that the pilot model will provide the foundation for local adaptations and amendments as the service is rolled out nationwide

### **3.2 Subgroup 2:**

3.2.1 SG2 advised that their focus was to examine the capacity needs throughout the NFMHS with regard to long term and short term care. SG2 are in agreement that the current system is at capacity with limited movement of service users

3.2.2 SG2 are reviewing a potential model of care with regard to slow stream beds for service users to be discharged from CMH but would require admission to a step down facility for longer term care – DOH noted that it is part of STV to deliver ICRUs and PICUs.

3.2.3 The Chair advised that there is still a lot of work to be completed for this subgroup with regard to assessing levels of treatment needed and also in terms of expansions within the current system

3.2.4 The taskforce discussed access to levels of treatment available and costings with regard to PICUs model. The SG would continue to review if this is be a sustainable model of care going forward

3.2.5 DoH advised that the Mental Health Act 2001 is currently going through Pre-Legislative Scrutiny and should DJ wish to seek changes to the Act they should inform DoH as soon as possible.

### **3.3 Subgroup 3:**

3.3.1 The Chair advised that the remit of this Group is very broad and complex as they are examining throughcare from Court to the community

3.3.2 Diversion from Court was discussed with regard to what is needed to be presented to the judiciary from the Probation Service. This will be necessary in order to enable the process of diversion to operate correctly from the Courts

3.3.1 The decision making process of this programme was also discussed with regard to the appropriate timing of critical decisions and who is the authoritative body on such decisions

3.3.3 The PICLs model was discussed and how that presents an excellent opportunity without incurring large costs

3.3.4 There are still considerable challenges posed with regard to homelessness and access to health care services post-release. It was agreed that a structure needs to be set up to facilitate shared and effective decision making

3.3.5 D/Housing gave an overview of Housing First and how this will impact the levels of recidivism and also have a significant impact on service users with mental health and addiction challenges

### **4. How Budgets may be affected by recommendations:**

4.1 It was discussed how each Group needs to be conscious of the fact that changes proposed by HLTF will incur costs

### **5. AOB and Date of next meeting:**

5.1 The Secretariat will review dates and send out a calendar invite for the next plenary meeting

5.2 The Chair advised that the date of the interim report to be submitted has slightly slipped. All information is to be submitted by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October at latest

### **Actions:**

1. Outstanding Subgroup reports are to be submitted by Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021