

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

Subgroup 1: Diversion

Meeting Thursday 9th December 2021 11am-12pm

Attendees:

- Chair – Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche, An Garda Síochána
- Dr Eamon Keenan, National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services, HSE
- Inspector Andrew Lacey, An Garda Síochána
- Eoin Ryan, Regional Manager with responsibility for prisons regions, Probation Service
- Enda Kelly, National Nurse Manager, Irish Prison Service
- Michael Murchan, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Health
- Deirdre O’Flaherty, Administrative Officer, Department of Health
- Brendan Sheehy, Assistant Principal Officer, Community Safety Policy, Dept. of Justice
- Tony O’Donovan; Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Principal Officer, Child Welfare Advisor, Children Detention Unit
- Secretariat – John Dunphy, Oonagh Ffrench and Kerrie Keegan, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

Apologies:

- Seamus Hempenstall, Principal officer, Department of Health

Agenda:

1. Minutes of last meeting 18.11.21 and amended minutes of 07.10.21
2. Roadmap to final report
3. AOB

1. Minutes

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed the Group to the meeting and thanked everyone for their work to date
- 1.2. The Minutes of the previous meeting dated 18th November 2021 were approved as were amended Minutes of 7th October 2021

2. Roadmap to final report

- 2.1. The Chair advised that a lot of work had been completed but input is needed from all parties
- 2.2. There is a lot of input from AGS and this needs to be offset by input from both the HSE and the D/Justice
- 2.3. A group of members from this subgroup will meet in January to discuss the final report and members put their names forward in relation to this
- 2.4. It was suggested that there may be a need for further legislation to be included in the recommendations

- 2.5. There is need for Agencies to look at putting the programme on a more elaborate fundamental statutory basis
- 2.6. There is a lot of work ongoing in D/Health with regards to changes in Mental Health Act and D/Justice have already submitted observations regarding same
- 2.7. It was agreed that there will be work required on the decision making aspect of the diversion and also on the Prosecutor Guidelines and the prosecutorial offences
- 2.8. The Group also agreed that there should be a MOU of the services that need to be available and that a two year implementation group will need to be created
- 2.9. Involuntary detention was discussed as well as creating a referral pathway into care
- 2.10. The subject of homelessness was raised which is a crucial component of understanding people with mental health challenges
- 2.11. The Group agreed that a hub needed to be created with housing services, clinicians and risk assessments available. This model would then be replicated across the country over the coming years

3. AOB:

- 3.1 The Group agreed that there would be a need for a consultation day. This would be led by the Plenary Group
- 3.2 Inspector Lacey will liaise with Secretariat and a final draft of SG1 report will be ready by the end of January