

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

Subgroup 3: Community issues including through Care from Detention

Friday 3rd December 2021 10am- 11am via video conference

Attendees:

- Chair; Mark Wilson; Director, Probation Service
- Judge Brendan Toale
- Jim Ryan; Head of Operations for Mental Health Services, HSE
- Mary O'Regan; Principal Officer, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy
- Seamus Hempenstall; Principal Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health
- Dr Conor O'Neill; National Forensic Mental Health Service, HSE
- Enda Kelly; National Nurse Manager, Irish Prison Service
- Tom O'Brien; Head of Service Primary Care, Community Healthcare Organisation, HSE
- Graham Hopkins; Dept. of Housing, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery Section
- Kim McDonnell; Probation Officer, Probation Service
- Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health,
- Dr Damien Smith; Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, In-reach team, Mountjoy, CMH
- **Secretariat** – John Dunphy, Oonagh Ffrench and Kerrie Keegan, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

Apologies:

- Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche; An Garda Síochána
- Tony O'Donovan; Principal Officer, DCEDIY, Child Welfare Advisor, Child Detention Unit
- Deirdre O'Flaherty; Administrative Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health
- Joseph Doyle; Social Inclusion, HSE

Agenda:

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Focus on Community Care
4. AOB

1. Welcome from Chair

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1. Minutes of meeting of 12.11.21 and 22.10.21 were approved

3. Focus on Community Care

- 3.1. The Chair stated that a lot of work has been completed on the community care document for discussion at meeting today with inputs from Conor, Damien and from the Mental Health Commission report
- 3.2. The model of care is focused on the outcomes from best practice, including short to medium to long term goals and how best to roll this out on a wider basis
- 3.3. The Chair welcomed any further comments to the document. The HSE will continue to provide text to the document and will include an update on the community healthcare programme
- 3.4. It was stated that in relation to the In-Reach programme on the Primary Care side there is further development needed. There will be additional work done on supporting individuals who are coming out of prison and also supporting Traveller and migrant communities. There is a lot of positive work already completed but it requires more detail
- 3.5. D/Housing have reaffirmed the Housing First expansion to include homelessness. Managing homelessness at regional level will be a key aspect of this. It is noted that D/Justice will be involved and fully engaged in this area of work however it is strongly urged that Criminal Justice sector representatives are involved in fora
- 3.6. There was a discussion regarding the establishment of a joint case management system and the fact that this has potential. There could be a creation of potential KPIs to enable measurement. There would be a requirement to conduct a scoping exercise and to make recommended outcomes for a case management system
- 3.7. It was raised regarding updates to the Mental Health Act and the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act. It is noted that it is a complicated process to match the updates to MHA to the new Capacity Act amendments
- 3.8. It was raised that Judges need as much information as possible on the services available and proposals to inform options. Both at first appearance in Court and at sentencing, these are key issues for the judiciary.
- 3.9. The Group agreed that the focus needs to be on capturing the issues and then describing how best to deal with it. Any crossover and overlap with other Groups can be raised at plenary

4. AOB

- 4.1 It was agreed that the Group will meet on 7th and 28th January 2022. The next phase to be examined will be the courts

Actions:

- It was agreed that Conor, Damien, Brendan, Superintendent Roche, Kim and the Chair will draft document on this and present to the Group at the next meeting
- Secretariat to take the current document out of table structure that it is currently in and put into Word docs format