

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 2pm-3pm 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
- Joseph Doyle; Social Inclusion, HSE
- Graham Hopkins; Dept. of Housing, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery Section
- Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche; An Garda Síochána
- Tony O'Donovan; Principal Officer, DCEDIY, Child Welfare Advisor, Child Detention Unit
- 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
- Deirdre O'Flaherty; Administrative Officer, Mental Health Unit, Dept. of Health
- **Secretariat** – John Dunphy and Kerrie Keegan, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

### Agenda:

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Through care from Custody
4. Agreed topic and leads for next meeting
5. AOB

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

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming new member Judge Brendan Toale with a tour de table
- 1.2. The Chair states that he is satisfied that we have a strong committee and that the structured template approach has been rolled out across other subgroups
- 1.3. Both Subgroups 1 and 2 are progressing well with Subgroup 2 continuing with its data modelling exercise and Subgroup 1 engaging with ODPP

#### **2. Minutes of the last Meeting**

- 2.1 The Chair noted that the Minutes will be submitted for review at the next meeting.

#### **3. Throughcare from Custody**

- 3.1. The Chair raised that if members have any relevant text or information to submit to the group please use the template. The work can then be added to the document
- 3.2. The Chair highlighted the challenges and difference in care with regards to people who are in remand and people who have been sentenced. It was raised that service users upon leaving prison have difficulty in accessing care due to catchment area decisions. There are also difficulties with homeless individuals in accessing care
- 3.3. It was discussed that in order to arrange throughcare for service users, engagement is required with many different services. Access to services are often delivered through the Courts
- 3.4. It was raised that there is a lack of PICU beds for people who have acute mental illness. There is a difference between PICU and ICRU beds as ICRU has more of a focus on rehabilitation
- 3.5. There are higher rate of mental health illness' in prisons than then in the community. There are also potential concerns in the community regarding the return of service users to the community
- 3.6. There is an acknowledgment of the progress and of the significant investment that has been achieved with regards to funding and the availability of services. The focus now needs to be on the distribution of services and to allow for a faster access to healthcare
- 3.7. The Subgroup will now focus on the scoping of work relevant to the implementation plan and will define the work as measurable as possible
- 3.8. It was raised regarding legislation that it does cover the three Subgroups and that the Mental Health Act is currently being reviewed and that if there are any suggestions it is important to identify them.

#### **4. Agreed topic and leads**

4.1 The next section of work to be reviewed is care in the community. This area will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting by Kim McDonnell, Tom O'Brien, Joseph Doyle, Graham Hopkins and Mark Wilson.

#### **5. AOB**

The next date of the meeting is scheduled for 3rd December 2021.

#### **Actions:**

- Secretariat to distribute minutes of previous meeting.
- Members to consider throughcare material and provide any updates/observations
- Community leads to meet, and produce paper for next meeting.