

High Level Taskforce on the mental health and addiction challenges of persons interacting with the criminal justice system

Subgroup: Community issues including through care from detention

Meeting 27 May, 2021

**MINUTE**

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**Attendees:**

**Chair**

Mark Wilson; Director, Probation Service

**Nominated membership**

Colm Desmond; Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Health, Corporate Legislation, Mental Health, Drugs Policy and Food Safety Division

Jim Ryan; Head of Operations for Mental Health Services, HSE

Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Dept. of Health, Mental Health Unit

Enda Kelly; National Nurse Manager, Irish Prison Service

Graham Hopkins; Dept. of Housing, Homelessness Policy, Funding and Delivery Section

Tony O'Donovan; Principal Officer, DCEDIY, Child Welfare Advisor, Children Detention Unit

**Secretariat** – John Dunphy & Yvonne Phillips, Dept. of Justice, Penal and Policing Policy

**Minute**

1. The chair opened the meeting with round table initial thoughts on the subgroups approach and the role the secretariat will play in keeping connectivity of the work of all the subgroups.

2. **Review of IDG recommendations:**

Rec 15 – agreed

Rec 16 – MW fits with pathways and blockages between our services. Agreed.

Rec 17 – agreed

Rec 18 – making sure we have protocols in place. Agreed

Rec 26 – agreed.

Rec 27 - EK two issues, people leaving prisons and not having access to GPs and then separate issue of open prisons. MW; at later stage can parse differences. EK; first element could fit in with Rec 28, second element to go to another SG, suggest subgroup 2 (capacity group)

Rec 28 – agreed. First element of Rec 27 now to be included with Rec 28.

The Chair see these as our recommendations. If more any ideas please submit via email to Secretariat.

Discussion was had regarding other IDG Recs, EK; diversion 1 and 6, could we have input? The Chair felt the need to avoid duplication, possible issue of number 6 for consultation with the Court Services. Take note of issues but agreed that 1 to 6 appropriate to diversion SG (SG1). Secretariats role to keep connectivity between subgroups.

3. **TOR and title.**

Title agreed.

ToR - First bullet point. CD; qualifier that there is clear need from MoU and it will have resource impacts, need to be honest about what can be done with given resources. Important to note there could be policy matters for consideration i.e. eligibility for medical cards.

JR; perhaps not a MoU, but some formal arrangement.

Chair states text says MoU or similar. Agreement on slightly revised wording as per updated ToR. HSE and Health to consider once redrafted.

Second bullet point: Housing fully recognised as fundamental to these needs. Committed to expanding the pilot project into mainstream services in the Housing First programme. Implementation committee will request a DOJ or IPS representative. Funding conversations are currently being had with publication due in July.

MM; is it local authority approved type housing or is it also care centre type facilities? JR of view that very few incidences of community care provision post release. CD; multifaceted issue, homelessness, need to reflect addiction. MW; agreed on addition of ref to addiction (this has been added). YP; raising KL point re provision of options so as not to trap an individual in an unsuitable location, need for regional consideration.

Third bullet point: Significant concern about this. EK in favour of some form of acknowledgement of specialised needs. YP highlights Justice perspective, strategies on youth and women. DoH and HSE see all persons using the services as vulnerable and not in favour of specifying certain cohorts. Chair concerned ToF spiralling. Position agreed to remove, EK to provide a possible replacement text that acknowledges issue.

Fourth bullet point; SG thinks consultation best handled centrally. Concern over impact on timelines of a consultation. Agreed to remove point, communicate to chair discussion held on communications, happy to input as appropriate but feel consultation should be matter for central HLTF.

Next meeting, Friday, 11 June @ 14:00

Action points

- Amend ToR for recirculation and agreement of group (Secretariat)
- Send agreed ToR and Membership to HLTF Chair for approval (Secretariat)
- Discuss timeframe for completion with HLTF Chair (Secretariat)