

Report of High Level Taskforce to consider the mental health and addiction challenges of those who come into contact with the criminal justice sector

HLTF Implementation 2nd Steering Committee Meeting

29th March 2023 at 2pm – virtually

Minutes of meeting

Attendees:

- Chair, Ben Ryan; Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice
- Siobhan McArdle; Assistant Secretary, Department of Health
- Mary O'Regan; Principal Officer, Department of Justice
- Siobhan Hargis; Principal Officer, Department of Health
- Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Health
- Philip Dodd; Policy and Clinical Specialist, Department of Health.
- **Secretariat:** Alan King; Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Justice and Oonagh Ffrench; Higher Executive Officer, Department of Justice

Agenda:

1. Implementation Plan for Departments/agencies (including milestones, other recent reports etc).
2. Appointment of Steering Committee representatives.
3. Progress new initiatives over 2023.
4. Preparation of progress update to Ministers.
5. AOB

Minutes:

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Queries received from Justice agencies involved in the HLTF regarding this stage of the implementation of the report recommendations and are eager to be involved.

Mapping exercise of HLTF Report recommendations completed which shows work overlapping with Sharing the Vision (StV) and other relevant policies .

DoH have recently written to HSE regarding ownership and progression of the recommendations at HSE level. HSE response awaited.

1 Implementation Plan for Departments/agencies

- 1.1 Chair stated that unlike DoH there is no single overarching structure in DoJ that oversees all the relevant policies. He asked whether there were any observations on the document [20220818 HLTF Implementation and Monitoring mechanism] circulated to members, .and the following points arose:
- 1.2 Suggested that both Departments could have visibility on the respective updates on StV/DoJ agencies. It could also be decided what frequency of reporting will be done on Steering Committee progress. More transparency could be included in the document so that the

engagement between Departments and reporting timeframes are stated. Feedback from the Justice workstream and agencies as well as StV would be very constructive. Noted that some of the HLTF Recommendations, such as CAST, do not come under StV, but will be progressed separately.

1.3 SMcA gave example of the timeframes used to track implementation of StV recommendations. Agreement given that there are a number of standalone recommendations for DoJ and if the agreed reporting mechanism is done on a quarterly basis then it would be convenient for the agencies to pull out relatively recently updated work completed on HLTF recommendations and align with StV implementation reporting requirements to the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) of StV.

1.4 Dashboard could be provided to stakeholders for updates to be inputted into.

Action : Milestones to be mapped; quarterly reporting to be carried out; dashboard to be shared with stakeholders for update on progress.

2 Attendance of Justice and Health agency representatives

2.1 A stakeholder event was put forward to review progress generally on HTLF implementation with all the relevant agencies. It is envisaged under the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee that agency representatives would attend meetings, as appropriate.

2.2 Agency representatives would not be at every meeting but would meet up in a forum once or twice a year so that it was important not to lose momentum. MOR stated that the agencies should be asked to nominate a contact point as there have been staff changes since the HLTF report was published and it would be easier to reach out to Justice/Health agencies if attendees were agreed.

2.3 As some recommendations do not fall within the remit of StV they may need their own sub-structure to progress further. Chair agreed that a subgroup might be tasked with this particular area of work.

2.4 Next meeting might take place end April with stakeholder event planned to take place in May 2023.

Action : Stakeholder event to be organised to take place in May 2023.

3 Progress new initiatives over 2023

3.1 The timeline for CAST rollout has changed due to recruitment issues but recommendations associated with Dual Diagnosis are generally progressing as planned. The publication of the new Model of Care for the National Clinical Programme for Dial Diagnosis by the HSE is planned for May 2023; There are also delays to publication of the HSE National Service Plan 2023. Invitation to launch will be sent to DoJ.

3.2 Update regarding legislation around mental health diversion : an alternative solution has been proposed which means other Ministers could propose Regulations where necessary. This will require certain clarifications over time.

3.4 Spent Convictions PMB (sponsored by Senator Lynn Ruane) has passed Seanad stage and is at Dáil Second Stage. Minister for Justice has indicated the intention to identify a Government Deputy in the Dáil to assist in progressing the Bill, known as the Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018.

4 Preparation of progress update to Ministers

4.1 Agreement on reporting timeframe for Committee. First report to be provided in September 2023 on progress of the first 6 months.

Action : First report of Steering Committee to be prepared in September 2023.

5 AOB

Next meeting to take place end April/early May 2023.

APPROVED