

**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 Steering Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 2pm – Hybrid**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Attendees:**

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

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome - DoH Chairperson
2. Minutes of meetings of 6 December 2022 and 29 March 2023
3. Mapping process –outline of work undertaken to-date
4. Outline of progress to date on the implementation of the HLTF recommendations: i) Department of Health; Siobhan McArdle, Assistant Secretary ii) Department of Justice; Ben Ryan, Assistant Secretary
5. Attendance of Agency representatives at Steering Committee
6. Preparation of progress update to Ministers.
7. AOB – next meeting date of Steering Committee.

**Minutes:**

**1. Welcome - DoH Chairperson**

- 1.1 Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and noting apologies for non-attendees.

**2. Minutes of meetings of 6 December 2022 and 29 March 2023**

- 2.1 The minutes of the first and second Steering Committee (SC) meetings were agreed.

### **3. Mapping process –outline of work undertaken to-date**

3.1 Dr. Dodd outlined progress for the Health side. The HSE has established a Working Group on the Justice Workstream under *Sharing the Vision* (StV), and membership of this Group was outlined to the Committee.

3.2 The HSE recently responded to DOH with an internal HSE working paper on implementation of all HLTF recommendations relevant to HSE. This reflected to some extent previous work on HLTF mapping and StV. There are various points that require clarification and finalisation between DOH and HSE e.g. timelines, actions which are not fully aligned to *Sharing the Vision*/NIMC etc. As such, the working paper was not yet ready to be shared with Steering Committee colleagues, but this would occur in due course.

3.3 D/Justice noted that the previous draft mapping document by DOH has been shared with relevant agencies. There was a need for further clarity on this generally, including reporting relationships and action ownership. Justice sector stakeholders were keen to engage further with HLTF actions. D/Justice emphasised the need for the SC to meet with them in the coming weeks to facilitate and guide this work, with a view to establishing the reporting mechanism for the SC going forward as an oversight and steering body.

3.4 D/Justice further noted that work on HLTF actions is ongoing by relevant agencies. A key question is how progress is to be monitored and reported back to the SC. A meeting with all relevant agency representatives would also provide an opportunity to review particular actions that require cross-agency co-operation at national level, and highlight actions which are more discrete and may need focussed local bi-lateral cooperation.

3.5 D/Health gave a brief update of StV implementation/monitoring and how this will support relevant HLTF actions. D/Justice do not yet have an equivalent process in place.

3.6 It was agreed that the SC prepare a high level Guidance Note for stakeholders. This should reflect objectives of the SC; mapping process and timeframes; roles and responsibilities of Departments versus agencies, including lead agency level for each HLTF action. It will clarify the reporting mechanism/relationships by agencies in the context of the SC as the oversight body to monitor HLTF progress overall. Guidance would also cover the issue of cross cutting actions, and outline how an agency can be a lead on one action or support another. Duplication regarding reporting should be avoided or minimised e.g. with *Sharing the Vision* structures or other existing mechanisms in the Health or Justice sectors. Draft guidance will be circulated to stakeholders ahead of the next meeting, as a basis for discussion on action ownership and future engagement with the SC.

3.7 It was also agreed that an update should be sought from stakeholders on progress within 4 weeks of the meeting, i.e. in early July.

#### **Actions:**

- Finalise mapping of actions to include categorisation framework – Joint action
- Draft Guidance Document and circulate to all stakeholder agencies – D/Health to draft
- Arrange stakeholder meeting – D/Justice to host

**4. Outline of progress to date on the implementation of the HLTF recommendations: i) Department of Health; Siobhan McArdle, Assistant Secretary ii) Department of Justice; Ben Ryan, Assistant Secretary**

4.1 The DOH representatives provided an overview of some recent significant StV progress of relevance to HLTF actions, namely:

- Launch of the Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis (May 2023) and recruitment to teams, with all clinical leads in place and people now being seen by services.
- Launch of the Crisis Resolution Model of Care (May 2023). Teams work with people in crisis for up to 6 weeks to divert them from Emergency Departments or An Garda Síochána, while providing an immediate health response
- The interim report on acute bed capacity has been prepared for the StV National Implementation Monitoring Committee (NIMC). This is examining the gap between bed numbers in Ireland and international norms. This is complex work as there are many factors which influence bed stays (such as how other health services are configured/overall mental health service model). A Capital Plan is in development, with delivery over the next 2 quarters.
- Progress on the Community Access Support Teams (CAST) project in Limerick. A recent HSE report on this was provided to Dept. of Justice.

4.2 D/Justice (Mary O'Regan) outlined progress being made by relevant agencies, particularly on the HNA (Health Needs Assessment). D/Justice acknowledged that current processes for getting data and updates on HLTF actions are not as developed as on the Health side and that tailored responses were being developed.

## **5. Attendance of Agency representatives at Steering Committee**

5.1 This issue was largely discussed under item 3. It is agreed, as was originally envisaged under the Steering Committee establishment and Terms of Reference, that the Committee can invite agency representatives to meetings as required. This would facilitate progress updates and provide high level support to agencies on HTLF implementation.

## **6. Preparation of progress update to Ministers**

6.1 The Chair noted that a July meeting of the SC would form the basis of the forthcoming report for Ministers. The report will be finalised in O4, 2023 - to cover progress up to end Q3 this year.

## **7. AOB – next meeting date of Steering Committee**

Meeting with agency reps. to be scheduled for week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> June, with D/Justice to host.