

**Report of the High Level Taskforce to Consider the Mental Health and Addiction Challenges of those who come into Contact with the Criminal Justice Sector**

**6th Meeting of the HLTF Implementation Steering Committee**

**Monday, March 4 2024 at 10.30am – Department of Justice, 51 St Stephens Green**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Attendees:**

- Ben Ryan; Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice (Chair)
- Siobhan McArdle; Assistant Secretary, Department of Health
- Siobhan Hargis, Principal Officer, Department of Health
- Mary O'Regan; Principal Officer, Department of Justice
- Alan King; Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Justice
- Michael Murchan; Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Health
- Claire Beauchamp, Administrative Officer, Department of Health

**Apologies:**

- Oonagh Ffrench DoJ

**Minutes:**

**1. Welcome – DoH Chairperson.**

1.1 Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those attending.

**2. Minutes of meeting of September 2023.**

2.1 The minutes of the fifth Steering Committee meeting were agreed by the Committee.

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

3.1 The mapping process was generally to clarify roles and responsibilities, with on-going monitoring. In overall terms, it would be good to synchronise reporting requirements for the agencies where possible, to avoid duplication.

3.2 DoH spoke about tracking software which is linked to the online portal for Connecting for Life (CfL). This is working well and the tracking system will be rolled out to Sharing the Vision (StV) during 2024.

3.3 The HLTF SC will look to the possibility of adopting this 'ActionTrack' software to streamline the reporting process after StV has done same.

**3.4** In light of this for DoH, manual updates will be sought for now with a hope to move to automated tracking in future.

**3.5** There are set dates for updates on CfL and StV. The Justice workstream under StV interacts with the IPS and NFMHS, and a number of the HLTF recommendations fall under this workstream. Work continues to scope out alignment of reporting dates to ensure that any burden associated with duplication of reporting is avoided.

**3.6** The Steering Committee will aim for the annual progress report (as recently published for Sept '22 to Sept '23), and quarterly reporting from agencies will assist in seeing that implementation is on-track.

## **4. Outline of progress to date**

### **DoH Update**

Department of Health updated on a range of actions including :

Appointment of STV NIMC (2024-2027).

- 4.1 A new directory for GP practices on CfL website.
- 4.2 Progress on recruitment for three initial site areas in Q4, 2023 regarding Dual Diagnosis Model of Care.
- 4.3 IPS tiered model of care being finalised.
- 4.4 Establishment of a HSE Capital Planning Group for mental health facilities
- 4.5 A new Inclusion Mental Health Team for people experiencing homelessness in Dublin South city
- 4.6 Mental Health Bill, including planned progression over Dail Summer Session.
- 4.7 Connecting for Life (CfL), including SADA analysis, latest SADA reports and CAM training.
- 4.8 Establishment of a National Steering Group to respond to presentations of Emotional Dysregulation
- 4.9 Memo of Understanding on improved links through the NFMHS Prison In-reach Service and the Probation Service.
- 4.10 WHO Conference on Care in Detention in the Netherlands in April 2024.

### **DoJ update**

Department of Justice updated on a range of actions including :

- 4.11 Retirement of Dr John Devlin, Irish Prison Service
- 4.12 Meeting Bernard Gloster, HSE and Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General, Department of Justice on 6 December 2023
- 4.13 Appointment of permanent Director of Care and Rehabilitation and Acting Executive Clinical Lead (ECL)

- 4.14 Request for Tender (RFT) for the Mental Health Needs Analysis
- 4.15 New build facility in Mounjoy complex to provide care and accommodation for prisoners on their transfer back from CMH/FICRU
- 4.16 Meeting IPS and HSE to progress dual diagnosis pilot in the IPS
- 4.17 Research on intersection between homelessness and criminality being commissioned
- 4.18 Possible visit by Minister McEntee to CMH, Portrane

## **5. Discussion re: publication of Minutes of HLTF meetings following request in February 2024 for release of same under FOI request**

**5.1** Publication of SC minutes on the relevant Departmental websites is approved in principle.

## **6. AOB**

**6.1** In terms of the CAST pilot, a meeting was proposed with DoH/DoJ/HSE/AGS to discuss possible options and to maintain momentum. The relevant HSE Senior Manager will be asked to follow up in terms of arranging a meeting.

**6.2** It is intended that a meeting of the Steering Committee, also involving stakeholders, will be planned for mid to end of June.

Updates can be sought prior to that (to cover Q4 2023 and Q1 2024). If necessary a meeting of the SC itself will take place around the end of May/early June before the meeting with stakeholders.