

Submission HLT 01472-21: Chairs of the Strategic Implementation Groups supporting the implementation of the Strategic Priorities of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery

TO: MOS Feighan
STATUS: Completed
PURPOSE: For Decision

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Jim Walsh

DIVISION: Mental Health, Drugs Policy, Social Inclusion,
Food & Environmental Health and Corporate
Legislation.

DECISION BY:

Final comment

Minister has approved the suggested nominations.

Action required

To nominate independent Chairs to the Strategic Implementation Groups charged with supporting the implementation of the Strategic Priorities of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2021-2025

Executive summary

The mid-term review of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery identified six strategic priorities to strengthen the implementation of the national drugs strategy for the period 2021-2025, esubmission HLT 01380-21 refers. The strategic priorities reflect the lessons and the stakeholder feedback from the mid-term review and capture the commitments in the Programme for Government. They are designed to reinforce the health-led approach to drug and alcohol use and are consistent with the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023 and the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025.

Strategic implementation Groups (SIGs) will be established to support the delivery of the strategic priorities and to reinforce cross-agency collaboration. Each SIG will have an independent chair, who will become a member of the National Oversight Committee of RHSR.

The importance of identifying candidates with the requisite background and experience was agreed with the Minister. The key attributes for the role of chair include independence, impartiality, experience in chairing meetings involving a range of stakeholders, experience of negotiations and ability to build consensus and an understanding of the complexities of social policy issues.

A list of proposed chairs is attached for consideration.

Detailed information

1. Jim Walsh, P.O.
2. Secretary General
3. Minister Feighan

**charged with supporting the implementation of the
Strategic Priorities of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2021-2025**

Arising from the mid-term review of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery, six strategic priorities are identified to strengthen the implementation of the national drugs strategy for the period 2021-2025.

The strategic priorities reflect the lessons and the stakeholder feedback from the mid-term review and capture the commitments in the Programme for Government. They are designed to reinforce the health-led approach to drug and alcohol use. They are consistent with the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023 and the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 and align with relevant priorities in the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan and UN policies on drugs, children, and sustainable development.

The six strategic priorities are:

1. Strengthen the prevention of drug and alcohol use and the associated harms among children and young people;
2. Enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community;
3. Develop integrated care pathways for high-risk drug users to achieve better health outcomes;
4. Address the social determinants and consequences of drug use in disadvantaged communities;
5. Promote alternatives to coercive sanctions for drug-related offences;
6. Strengthen evidence-informed and outcomes-focused practice, services, policies, and strategy implementation.

Strategic implementation groups will support the delivery of the strategic priorities and to reinforce cross-agency collaboration, a key value of the strategy. It is intended that specific actions will be associated with each of the priorities, including actions that are still relevant from the strategic action plan 2017-2020, and new actions required to deliver the priorities.

Each SIG will have an independent chair, who will become a member of the National Oversight Committee of RHR. It is considered that the key attributes for the role of chair include independence, impartiality, experience in chairing meetings involving a range of stakeholders, experience of negotiations and ability to build consensus and an understanding of the complexities of social policy issues.

The importance of identifying candidates with the requisite background and experience was agreed with the Minister. It was agreed that a list of proposed chairs would be drawn up for consideration, which is now attached, with e background details. The proposed chairs are individuals of considerable experience and expertise. There is gender balance, with three males and three females. Three of the proposed chairs work (or have worked) in the health services, while the other three come from non-health sectors (local development, criminal justice and academia). One person currently serves as independent chair of a task force, through he is not being selected on this basis, this can be viewed as a positive. Another person is currently a Ministerial appointee on the NOC.

The stakeholders who will be on the groups was set out in a paper to the NOC. These will be written to requesting they nominate representatives on the groups.

It is hoped to convene the first meeting of the Strategic Implementation Groups by mid December.

A separate note will be submitted on possible Ministerial nominees to the NOC.

Submitted for consideration

Related submissions

HLT 01380-21: Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery - A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 - 2025 Revised Structures Supporting Implementation of the Strategic Priorities 2021-2025

User details

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