

## **Meeting of Dialogue Forum with Voluntary Organisations**

***Monday 27 March, 14:30-16:00, Online***

### **Note of Meeting**

#### **1. Introductory Update – Chair Peter Cassells**

In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed Forum members and thanked them for accommodating this additional Forum meeting ahead of the launch of the Partnership Principles. The Chair briefly reflected on the detailed discussions on the Case Study Process in the previous Forum meeting and thanked members for their contributions.

#### **2. Case Study Process Final Report – presentation by Prospectus**

The Chair invited Prospectus to present the final report from the case study process. Key points included:

- Seven case study workshops comprised of participants from the HSE and the voluntary sector were held between October and December.
- The final report was informed by the findings of these workshops and incorporated feedback from the Oversight Group and from Forum members following a discussion at February's Forum meeting.
- At the outset, the report acknowledges important issues raised, including those related to funding, organisation-specific challenges and the potential for mergers, that fell outside the scope of the case study process.
- Informed by the findings of the report and feedback from the Oversight Group and Forum members, Prospectus makes six recommendations as follows:
  - Implementation of the Partnership Principles using exemplar projects, such as the SA Review and RHA design process. Learning from these projects should be captured and disseminated in a structured manner across the voluntary and statutory systems to inform wider ways of working.
  - Building on the learning from the exemplar projects, regional fora should be established to drive the wider roll out of new ways of working and act as a forum for addressing issues and sharing good practice.
  - A structure and process for voluntary organisations to contribute towards the development and roll-out of a shared vision for health and social care services should be established.
  - Voluntary organisations should be provided with an opportunity to input into national service planning on an annual basis, with the option of exploring a multi-annual work plan in the future.
  - Voluntary organisations should be given structured and regular access to senior decision-makers through umbrella bodies to allow input to the development of a shared understanding of how decisions will be made under the RHA structure.
  - Prioritise voluntary sector consultation on and engagement with the RHA design and implementation process.

Prospectus acknowledged and thanked the Forum, the Oversight Group, and everyone involved for their time and valuable contributions throughout the case study process.

The Chair thanked Prospectus for their presentation and for all their work on the Case Study Process Final Report. The Chair invited comments and questions from members of the Forum. The following questions and comments were received:

- Forum members welcomed the final report and acknowledged the body of work that went into it to further build on the previous work of the Forum. The recommendations made in the report were welcomed.
- Members expressed a desire to see progress on exemplar projects, especially given the interdependencies between the projects and the risks posed by delays. Members also expressed a desire to ensure there is progress made in a number of other areas in parallel to the exemplar projects. One specific area highlighted was the development of a charter.
- The point was made that the Partnership Principles apply not only to how State and Voluntary organisations operate with each other but also to how voluntary organisations work with each other and within themselves.
- Previous experience points to the importance of learning through practice with a focus on the delivery of outcomes: learnings from the exemplar projects will therefore be key to show how the principles work in practice. The principles are not 'off the shelf' but have themselves come from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic thus highlighting the importance of drawing learning from projects, including by showing what works.

### **3. Discussion on Dialogue Forum Work Programme**

The Chair invited the DoH to present the proposed areas of focus for 2023 to Forum members. Key points included:

- The suggested areas of focus for 2023 take forward core issues highlighted by the Case Study process and broader discussions at the Forums.
- The programme proposes the following 3 key areas of focus for 2023, including two exemplar projects:
  - The design and implementation of reconfigured HSE/RHAs
  - Review of Service Arrangement
  - Sustainability of Services
- Both exemplar projects (the SA review and RHA design and implementation) have their own governance/ project implementation structures which will be responsible for taking forward engagement with the voluntary sector. Exemplar projects provide live opportunities to implement the partnership principles and to do things differently.
- Dialogue Forum meetings for 2023 will focus on creating space for dialogue under the broad theme of sustainability of services, with the aim of delivering a deeper understanding of processes, issues, respective operational realities and perceptions through a programme of presentations and breakout discussions.
- Forum meetings will also provide an opportunity for progress updates and discussion on the exemplar projects.

Welcoming the proposed work programme, the Chair reminded members that the discussion around it will be an on-going process and, together with the findings from the Case Studies, will help guide the Forum's priorities for 2023. The key areas of focus were welcomed by Forum members. The issue of progressing the SA Review was raised and the HSE updated Forum members that the approach to the review is currently being revisited by HSE colleagues and it is anticipated that voluntary sector representatives will be included in that process shortly. Members reiterated their

interest in giving further consideration to a charter, as a means of highlighting the role and status of the sector. The Chair acknowledged the views raised but encouraged members to focus attention over the coming period on key projects underway, including RHAs and the SA Review, reminding members of the importance of 'doing'.

#### **4. Update on Dialogue Forum event to launch the Partnership Principles (Monday 3 April)**

The Chair invited the DoH to provide an overview of the event programme for the launch of the partnership principles. Key points included:

- The launch of the Partnership Principles is due to take place at 10am on 3 April in Miesian Plaza.
- It was confirmed that the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, will open the event on Monday and the CEO of HSE, Bernard Gloster, will participate in the panel discussion.
- There will be presentations from NESC and Prospectus on the partnership principles and case study findings. There will also be a panel discussion reflecting on the work of the Forum to date and on members' commitment to embedding the partnership principles in our ways of working.
- DoH encouraged members to register their attendance and to publicise the event to those they represent.

The Chair thanked the DoH for the update and for the work undertaken in relation to the planning of the event. The Chair also highlighted that the event will focus on the Forum's work to date and encouraged Forum members to make the launch a positive and constructive event.

#### **5. Close**

The Chair concluded the meeting, thanking Forum members for their positive inputs to the discussions. The Chair also thanked the secretariat for work on the work programme for this year. The Chair looked forward to seeing Forum members at the launch of the Partnership Principles on Monday 3 April.