

NIMC Steering Committee Minutes

Friday 15th December 11am – 1pm

St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown, Dublin 20

In-person meeting/Microsoft Teams VC Platform

Attendees:

Members: Mr John Saunders (Chair), Dr Joseph Duffy, Prof Daniel Flynn (attended remotely), Dr Siobhan Hargis, Dr Amir Niazi, Mr Ian Power (attended remotely), Prof Siobhan MacHale (attended remotely), Ms Aisling Culhane, Mr Michael Ryan (attended remotely), Mr Maurice Dillon, Dr Anne Marie Waldron, Ms Dervila Eyres, Ms Kelly Mofflin (attended remotely), Ms Fiona Coyle (attended remotely), Ms Kerry Cuskelly.

Apologies:

Mr John Meehan and Dr Brian Osborne.

In attendance:

- Dr Philip Dodd (Department of Health (DoH), Mental Health Unit), Mr Derek Chambers (HSE, Implementation Group), Ms Joanne McCormack (DoH, Mental Health Unit), Mr Oisín Murphy (DoH, Mental Health Unit), Jenny O'Brien (HSE), Margaret Sorohan (HSE, attended remotely for agenda item 6 only)

1. Attendance & apologies

- The Chair noted the apologies received from Mr Meehan and Dr Osborne.

2. Minutes of November 2023 meeting

- Dr Duffy proposed and Dr Waldron seconded approval of the November minutes.
- **Action: NIMC Secretariat to publish November minutes on the DoH website.**

3. Chair's update and matters arising

Patient Voice Partnership Policy Update

- Dr Dodd provided a background and short update, noting that the Policy was likely to be published in Q1/Q2 2024.
- There was discussion between NIMC members on several items including ensuring that there is a focus on mental health service users in the finished document. The Committee noted the public consultation that took place as part of the development of this policy.

- **Process review of the NIMC**

- Dr Dodd informed the meeting that the final report is due to be submitted by Prospectus to the DoH early next week. The findings will be considered by the incoming NIMC once it is established in January 2024.

Sharing the Vision conference, 16th January 2024

- Mr Saunders advised the meeting that the confirmed speakers for the event are Dr David McDaid, London School of Economics, and Dr Ledia Lazeri, WHO Europe Regional Advisor for Mental Health.

- The conference will highlight the work of the NIMC to date and will include panel discussions and a range of speakers.
- The format was confirmed as a plenary conference in Hibernia centre in Dublin Castle and will have a broad range of invitees across all sectors.
- **New term membership**
- The Chair announced that Ms. Catherine Brogan has been appointed by Minister Butler as the new Chairperson of the NIMC.
- Mr. Saunders confirmed that he and Ms. Brogan will have a briefing session in early January, and he will work with her closely to ensure that there is a smooth transition.

4. End of NIMC Term Report

- The Chair noted that the draft end of term report was circulated in advance of the meeting and requested observations from the members.
- The overall feedback from NIMC members was positive with members agreeing that the report provided a good summary of the work over the term of the NIMC, that it would provide a useful induction for new members, and it provides a high-level overview of the work to date while guiding readers to the more detailed reports.
- Further discussion highlighted areas where the report needed additional detail, including a section on key principles, inclusion of the work to date on the outcomes measurement process, additional narrative on the challenges around recruitment including the disciplines affected, and the challenges associated with embedding the policy at a local level.
- Opportunities for the incoming NIMC to progress local and regional engagement alongside the re-structuring of the HSE Health Regions were discussed.
- **Action: Members agreed to submit additional written feedback on the end of NIMC term report by Friday 22nd December.**

5. Closure of Recommendations

- **Recommendation 3**

- Dr Dodd provided a brief background to the process of implementation of Recommendation 3. A discussion followed, highlighting points requiring follow-up in future work, including the development of the second StV Implementation Plan (2025-2027), that implementation of the policy should be equality proofed, and a formal structure to link StV to the Women's Health Taskforce would be appropriate to optimise information sharing and policy implementation.
- Dr Dodd noted that the next Implementation Plan will be drafted over the next 12 months and will provide an opportunity to address the issues raised.
- Dr Waldron then proposed the motion to close Rec. 3 and Dr Hargis seconded.
- **Action: NIMC Secretariat to write to the Reference Group advising them of the closure of Rec. 3.**

- **Dissolution of the Specialist Group on Women's Mental Health**

- With Recommendation 3 now closed, it was noted that the dissolution of the Specialist Group on Women's Mental Health was appropriate.
- Mr Dillon proposed the motion and Dr Niazi seconded.
- Dr Dodd advised that the Secretariat would confirm the dissolution formally to Prof. McHale and the team.
- The Chair requested that the work of Prof. McHale and all members is acknowledged in the correspondence.

- **Action: NIMC Secretariat to write to the Specialist Group on Women’s Mental Health notifying them of the dissolution of the group and to thank them for their work.**

- **Recommendation 38**

- Mr Chambers provided the background to implementation of the recommendation. An audit was undertaken which found that most facilities are satisfactory, and several remedial actions were taken on foot of the audit report.
- Proposer: Dr Duffy proposed the motion and Dr Waldron seconded.
- There were further discussions around the admission of children and young people to adult units (in the context of Rec 38 above). Mr Chambers agreed that gaps in service do exist particularly at weekends and afterhours. Prof. McHale noted that the Model of Care for liaison psychiatry will address gaps that currently exist. It was agreed that this matter is a fundamental service issue and should be noted and discussed at a future NIMC meeting.
- **Action: NIMC Secretariat to write to the Reference Group advising them of the closure of Rec. 38.**

6. Q3 2023 Recruitment Report

- Dr Dodd provided a short update on the information provided in the report including progress on the HSE recruitment hub project, the HSE workforce projection programme, as well as the Department of Health’s workforce planning programme and the mental health nursing taskforce.
- Ms Sorohan updated the group on the contents of the report, noting that further to previous requests from the NIMC, Strategic Workforce Planning is working on collating information from leavers to add value to the reports. As a result, she expects that the information provided to NIMC to improve through 2024.
- Ms Culhane requested more information on the mental health nursing taskforce referenced on page 8 of the report. Ms Sorohan confirmed that mental health nursing is one action identified under the expert group and agreed to revert to NIMC with further details.
- Mr Flynn queried whether movement of staff from junior grades to higher grades was reflected in the figures. Ms Sorohan noted that there are caveats in the data provided regarding internal promotions, but that this was being looked at in the context of enriching data for the future.
- **Action: HSE Recruitment to provide additional information on the mental health nursing taskforce.**

7. AOB

- Next Meeting to be held 26th January 2024 in-person in Department of Health. The Chair noted the dates for meetings for 2024 were circulated in the meeting pack as indicative dates but may be subject to change once the new chair and membership have been consulted.
- The group then reflected on the last three years. The Chair thanked the members of the NIMC, the Reference Group, the NIMC and HIG secretariats, and the wider HSE staff in the Mental Health Sector for all their work in supporting the implementation of StV over the last three years, before the meeting concluded.

Actions arising from the meeting:

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
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1.	Publish the November meeting minutes on the DoH website.	NIMC Secretariat	31 st December 2024
2.	Members agreed to submit additional written feedback on the end of NIMC term report.	NIMC Membership	22 nd December 2023
3.	NIMC Secretariat to write to the Specialist Group on Women's Mental Health notifying them of the closure of Rec. 3.	NIMC Secretariat	26 th January 2024
4.	NIMC Secretariat to write to the Reference Group advising them of the closure of Rec. 38.	NIMC Secretariat	26 th January 2024
5.	NIMC Secretariat to write to the Specialist Group on Women's Mental Health notifying them of the dissolution of the group.	NIMC Secretariat	26 th January 2024
6.	HSE to provide an update on the mental health nursing taskforce	HSE Recruitment	26 th January 2024