

## **NIMC Steering Committee Minutes**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am – 1.30pm**

**Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, D02 XW14**

**In-person meeting/Microsoft Teams VC Platform**

### **Attendees:**

Members: Ms Catherine Brogan (Chair), Dr Amanda Burke (attended remotely), Prof David Cotter, Ms Fiona Coyle, Ms Aisling Culhane (attended remotely) Ms Kerry Cuskelly, Dr Joseph Duffy, Ms Dervila Eyres, Prof Daniel Flynn (attended remotely), Dr Siobhan Hargis, Ms Kelly Mofflin, Dr Amir Niazi, Mr Ian Power, Mr Donan Kelly, Dr Brian Osborne (attended remotely), Dr Donal O’Hanlon, Ms Cecily Roche, Mr Michael Ryan.

### **Apologies:**

N/A

### **In attendance:**

Dr Philip Dodd (Department of Health [DoH], Mental Health Unit), Mr Derek Chambers (HSE, Implementation Group, attended online), Ms Joanne McCormack (DoH, Mental Health Unit), Mr Oisín Murphy (DoH, Mental Health Unit), Mr Mark Smyth (HSE, attended for agenda item 5 only), Ms Grainne Clarke and Mr Vincent Barton (Prospectus, attended for item 6 only).

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- The Chair welcomed those present to the first Steering Committee meeting of the second term of the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC), including new members and those who were present during NIMC’s first term, and all attendees introduced themselves.

### **2. Attendance & apologies**

- The Chair noted no apologies and full attendance of the meeting.

### **3. Minutes of December 2023 meeting**

- The Chair sought a proposer and seconder for the December 2023 minutes. Dr Hargis proposed and Dr Duffy seconded.

**Action: NIMC Secretariat to publish December 2023 approved minutes on DoH website.**

### **4. Group Agreement**

- The Chair divided the group for further introductions and a discussion exercise around the future functioning of the Committee, with a summary of the discussions to be compiled by the NIMC Secretariat. The discussion summary is to be collated and brought to the next meeting to contribute to a draft Group Agreement.

**Action: NIMC Secretariat to collate the feedback for discussion at the Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.**

### **5. Chair’s update and matters arising**

- a) **NIMC end-of-term analysis report**

- The Chair advised that the final version of the NIMC end-of-term report was circulated to members and published on the Department's [website](#).

**b) Report from *Sharing the Vision* Mental Health Policy Conference, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

- Dr Dodd provided a short update on the positive feedback received from both participants and attendees to the Conference, outlined the varied organisations that attended and the media coverage received. The meeting was informed that copies of the PowerPoint presentations given by speakers are now available on the *Sharing the Vision* Conference [website](#).

**c) Update on Mental Health Act**

- Dr Hargis provided an update on the current progress on the drafting of the Mental Health Act, noting that drafting is progressing well with necessary drafting resources being made available by the Attorney General's Office. It is expected the remaining drafting will be completed by Easter in advance of the Summer Session, for which the Bill has again been given priority status and which commences just after Easter.
- Ms Coyle expressed her concerns regarding the timeline for the Bill to be signed into law. Dr Hargis acknowledged these concerns indicating that the advancement of the Bill remains a key priority for the Minister and the Department.

**d) Closure of Recommendations 3 and 38**

- Dr Dodd reported on the closure of Recommendations 3 and 38 as approved at the December 2023 meeting of the NIMC. The NIMC Secretariat has notified the Reference Group of the closures.

**e) Follow-up discussion to closure of Recommendation 38**

- Further to discussions at the December 2023 NIMC Steering Committee meeting regarding instances of admission of children and young people to adult approved centres, in the context of Recommendation 38, it was agreed that this would require further discussion at a future meeting.

**Action: NIMC Secretariat to include follow-up on Recommendation 38 closure for discussion at a future meeting.**

**f) Update on Mental Health Nursing working group**

- Dr Dodd provided a brief update from HSE Human Resources on the ongoing work of the Nursing & Midwifery Expert Implementation Group (EIG). Mental Health is one of two areas identified for priority action and is represented on the Group by an Area Director of Nursing. A working group is being established to review matters pertaining to Mental Health Nursing and to support the work of the EIG. Ms Culhane thanked the Secretariat for the update.

**g) Update on Press Releases relating to *Sharing the Vision* and the NIMC:**

- **Additional €10m in funding for MH services:** Dr Hargis noted that it was announced by Minister Butler that €10m additional funding was secured for Mental Health as part of the Revised Budget for Health for 2024. Detailed discussions are on-going between the Department of Health and the HSE regarding the allocation of this funding, aligned with the *Sharing the Vision* Implementation Plan.
- **Research funding for Mental Health from the Health Research Board (HRB):** Dr Dodd reported that Department of Health provided €7m for mental health research in 2023 via

the HRB, which will support strategic policy priorities and the work of the National Mental Health Research Expert Group established under *Sharing the Vision* with the Health Research Board–.

## 5. Youth Mental Health Transitions Programme

- Mr Mark Smyth, Chair of the Youth Mental Health Transitions Specialist Group, joined the meeting to present to the NIMC Steering Committee the finalised Youth Mental Health *Enhanced Transitions Plan* document and the *Transforming Youth Mental Health Services in Ireland: A New Model* document. reconfiguration plan for publication. The draft documents were previously presented to the NIMC Steering Committee and approved to proceed to final drafts. These documents are the critical outputs of work from this Specialist Group.
- Mr Smyth requested approval of both documents, for the documents to be published, and for the Specialist Group to dissolved, reflective of the completion of the required outputs of this Specialist Group, as detailed in the relevant terms of reference.
  - i. Mr Smyth presented the *Enhanced Transition Plan*, which sets out the enhanced supports and implementation plans to support individuals transitioning from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to General Adult Mental Health Services (GAMHS) at 18 years.
    - Several members welcomed the document and the consultation that went into its production.
    - A discussion followed concerning the proposed approach to transitions. There was support expressed for the “no wrong door” approach.
    - No changes were requested for this document.
  - ii. Mr Smyth then presented the reconfiguration plan *Transforming Youth Mental Health Services in Ireland: A New Model*, which includes prioritised and phased recommended actions, in planning for the provision of age-appropriate specialist mental health services up to age 25.
    - Committee members suggested some minor changes and additions to the final document, including emphasising a focus on recovery and including lived experience in implementation.
    - A discussion followed on the practical implementation of the reconfiguration plan’s recommendations. Mr Smyth noted that implementation was a key focus during the collation of the report, but that much of this work was undertaken prior to the establishment of the HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office in Q3 of 2023.
    - It was agreed that the practical implementation of reconfiguration is the responsibility of the HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office, which should be guided by the reconfiguration plan.
- The reports and their publication were approved by all members subject to the inclusion of small amendments to the second document.
- In light of the Specialist Group completing its required work, as per its terms of reference, it was agreed that the Specialist Group should be dissolved, with the Chair writing to the membership expressing appreciation for all of the work that was provided by members.

**Action: Youth Mental Health Transitions reconfiguration plan to be updated to incorporate feedback from NIMC Steering Committee members in advance of the final approval and publication of both documents.**

**Action: NIMC Chair to write to the Youth Mental Health Transitions Specialist Group members to express appreciation for their work.**

## **6. Independent Process Review of the NIMC**

- Dr Dodd provided an introduction and brief background to the review of NIMC commissioned by the Department of Health and conducted by Prospectus. The project constituted an independent process review of the NIMC and its associated implementation and monitoring structures, in line with Recommendation 99 of *Sharing the Vision*. Dr Dodd then invited Ms Clarke and Mr Barton of Prospectus to present on the findings, who thanked NIMC members for their input into the process and then presented a summary of the report.
- Committee members welcomed the report, noting its timeliness and stating that it accurately reflected the group discussions that went into its development and provides a very useful set of suggestions for the Committee to consider for this term.
- The Chair proposed that the NIMC and HIG Secretariats develop a workplan for the February meeting based on the recommendations in the report, which was approved by the Committee.

**Action: NIMC and HIG Secretariats to produce a workplan on implementing the Independent Process Review Report's recommendations, to present to NIMC at the 23<sup>rd</sup> February meeting.**

## **7. HSE Digital Mental Health Workplan**

- Mr Chambers presented a summary of the HSE Digital Mental Health Specialist Group Workplan. He also highlighted the upcoming opportunities for international collaboration in digital mental health with the World Health Organisation (WHO – European Region). A general discussion of the Workplan followed, in which Committee members made some suggestions on how to enhance its scope of work.
- Prof Cotter noted the alignment of this work with research commissioned by the Health Research Board, “VISTA: Vision to Action for promoting mental health and recovery. An Implementation Science approach to *Sharing the Vision*, Ireland's national mental health policy”. Prof Cotter agreed to share a summary of this research with the NIMC Secretariat for circulation to Steering Committee members.

**Action: NIMC Steering Committee members to submit any further observations on the Digital Mental Health Workplan before 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by email.**

**Action: Prof. Cotter to share a summary of HRB-commissioned mental health research “VISTA” with the NIMC Secretariat.**

## **8. Dates for Meetings for 2024**

- The Chair advised that the meeting schedule will be determined as part of the workplan being prepared by NIMC and HIG Secretariats reflective of the Prospectus report, for consideration in February. The next two meeting dates were confirmed for 23<sup>rd</sup> February (in person) and 22<sup>nd</sup> March (online).

**Action: NIMC Secretariat to send NIMC Steering Committee meeting invites for February and March.**

## 9. AOB

Ms Coyle highlighted the work ongoing in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to update the National Disability and Inclusion Strategy (NDIS). Ms Coyle suggested that this presents an opportunity to develop greater alignment between the new NDIS and *Sharing the Vision*, and agreed to link with the NIMC Secretariat in this regard.

**Action: Ms Coyle to follow up with the NIMC Secretariat on enhancing alignment of *Sharing the Vision* with the updated NDIS.**

### Actions arising from the meeting:

| No. | Action   | Responsibility                  | Timeframe  |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1.  | Publish December minutes on the DoH website.   | NIMC Secretariat                | 31/01/2024 |
| 2.  | Collate the feedback for agreement at the Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> meeting.  | NIMC Secretariat                | 23/02/2024 |
| 3.  | Include follow-up on Recommendation 38 closure for discussion at a future meeting  | NIMC Secretariat                | 20/12/2024 |
| 4.  | Youth Mental Health Transitions documents to be updated to incorporate feedback from NIMC Steering Committee members in advance of their final approval and publication. | Mr Mark Smyth                   | 23/02/2024 |
| 5.  | Write to the Youth Mental Health Transitions Specialist Group members to express appreciation for their work   | Ms Catherine Brogan             | 23/02/2024 |
| 6.  | Produce a workplan on implementing the Independent Process Review Report's recommendations, to present to NIMC at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> February meeting.                 | NIMC and HIG Secretariats       | 23/02/2024 |
| 7.  | Submit further observations on the Digital Mental Health Workplan before 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 by email.  | NIMC Steering Committee members | 09/02/2024 |
| 8.  | Share a summary of HRB-commissioned mental health research "VISTA" with the NIMC Secretariat.  | Prof David Cotter               | 16/02/2024 |
| 9.  | Send NIMC Steering Committee meeting invites for February and March.   | NIMC Secretariat                | 29/01/2024 |
| 10. | Follow up with the NIMC Secretariat on enhancing alignment of <i>Sharing the Vision</i> with the updated National Disability and Inclusion Strategy.                     | Ms Fiona Coyle                  | 23/02/2024 |