

Minutes of Disability Consultative Committee (DCC) Meeting
Wednesday 20th November 2019, 11:00 a.m. Miesian Plaza.

In attendance

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| Patsy Carr | Chair, Department of Health |
| Dave O' Connor | Department of Health |
| Billy McCarthy, | Department of Health |
| Jenny Andersson | Department of Health |
| Adam Fleming | Department of Health |
| Ann Melly | HSE |
| Mark O'Connor | Inclusion Ireland |
| Clodagh O' Brien | Not For Profit, |
| Alison Harnett | Nat Federation of Voluntary Bodies |
| Geraldine Graydon | National Parents & Siblings Alliance /ASFAN |
| Susan Kennefick | NDA |
| Tom Casey | DSG |
| Kate Byrne | DSG |

Apologies:

Una Nagle Brothers of Charity, Joanne McCarthy, DFI, Michael Murchan, D/Health,)

1. Apologies were noted, and the Chair welcomed Alison Harnett and Kate Byrne to the Committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2019 were adopted.

A proposal was made that minutes of meetings should be anonymised insofar as possible. It was also proposed that minutes of DCC meetings should be posted on the Department of Health's website.

The Department committed to exploring the feasibility of publishing minutes of the DCC on the Department's website.

- ✓ **Action:** All future minutes will be anonymised insofar as possible and will reflect actions agreed at meetings. The Department will examine the proposal of publishing DCC minutes on its website.

2. NDIS Steering Group Meeting Update.

The Department provided a short update on the last meeting of the NDISG, which took place on 3rd June 2019.

The focus of the meeting was the mid- term review of the Strategy, and the NDIS as a primary mechanism for realisation of the goals of UNCRPD.

Department of Justice and Equality advised that two public consultation events were planned for November. It was proposed that a draft review document would be ready by the next SG meeting, scheduled for 12th December.

NDA gave a brief outline of their gap analysis. The analysis will identify any gaps in NDIS that may be required for CRPD reporting next year. Examples cited included, oral health policy, climate change, HIQA fire safety.

3. Autism Plan

This was on the agenda following a request to committee members for agenda items they would like to be tabled for discussion.

A DOH official gave an update on the HSE Autism Plan announced by Minister Harris in October after €2 million was secured in Budget 2020 for its implementation.

A Programme Board has been tasked with furthering a range of initiatives in order to improve Autism services. The Board includes representation by individuals with lived experience of Autism.

One part of this plan is the development of a awareness raising that can provide a better information resource for children and parents about what supports are available. This campaign will also assist in creating awareness of the challenges, needs and experiences of people with autism.

Another significant part of the Autism Plan is to build capacity and competence amongst key professionals working in services for people with Autism. This includes a national training programme for clinicians and the implementation of a tiered model of assessment in order to improve access to and responses by services for those with Autism.

The primary objective of investing in an Autism Plan is to improve services for people with Autism and their families through improved access ASD diagnosis and intervention.

The HSE outlined that there has been an increase in the number of young people diagnosed with ASD and the difficulties experienced by these transitioning to adult services is quite daunting. In addition, there are a plethora of tests being used throughout the country for autism diagnosis.

It was acknowledged that there is a huge gap in the Adult World regarding people that weren't diagnosed with autism when they were younger.

In response to a query from the DSG, the HSE stated that a decision on a Single Assessment Tool (SAT) is under consideration. A decision is expected next year and this will enable the HSE to outline the level of services and support needs required for people with autism.

National Parents & Siblings Alliance /ASFAN stated that an early diagnosis of ASD will benefit others in the disability services, not just the autism community, there being two cohorts of people with autism, those who will talk about it and go on to college and get jobs and the other cohort, who won't talk about it and will not get employment.

The two priorities outlined in the autism plan are in the 2020 HSE Service Plan.

4 Any Other Business

DSG asked how agenda items should be chosen for topics of discussion at future meetings?

Not for Profit suggested that agenda items for the year ahead should be planned under thematic headings and that the group should submit suggested agenda items for the year. The agenda being developed should ensure that the group agrees a position on appropriate items.

The Chair stated that the Terms of Reference (ToR), circulated to the committee outline the committee's remit is insofar as policy is concerned. This remit includes discussion and information updates relevant to the NDIS and D/Health. Members should prioritise items within the NDIS that they want on any future agenda.

Not for Profit suggested that the ToR indicated that the DCC was consultative (rather than just information based).

Not for Profit suggested that the NDA could give a presentation on the UNCRPD at the next meeting.

DSG noted that the Department of Health did not publish an Annual Report that was Disability-specific and that perhaps this could be considered and addressed over time.

- ✓ **Action:** NDA will be requested to give a presentation on the UNCRPD at the next meeting.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 22/1/20 @ 11:00 a.m. in Miesian Plaza