

Minutes of Disability Consultative Committee (DCC) Meeting

Wednesday 22nd January 2020, 11:00 a.m. Miesian Plaza.

In attendance

Dave O' Connor	Chair, Department of Health
Michael Murchan,	Department of Health
Tom Morrin	Department of Health
Billy McCarthy,	Department of Health
Niamh Richardson	Department of Health
Ann Melly	HSE
Robert Murtagh	Inclusion Ireland
Una Nagle	Brothers of Charity
Clodagh O' Brien	Not For Profit,
Geraldine Graydon	National Parents & Siblings Alliance /ASFAN
Susan Kennefick	NDA
Tom Casey	DSG
Kate Byrne	DSG

Apologies:

Patsy Carr DoH, Mark O'Connor Inclusion Ireland, Joanne McCarthy DFI, Alison Harnett Nat Federation of Voluntary Bodies.

1. Following a tour de table, apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed Robert Murtagh to the meeting who was attending on behalf of Mark O'Connor.

Minutes of meeting held on 20th November 2019 were adopted with the following two amendments under any other business. DSG noted that the Department of Health did not publish an Annual Report on disability services provided and that perhaps this could be considered and addressed over time. It was noted that HSE publishes performance reports monthly, online.

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.

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

2. NDIS Steering Group Meeting Update.

The Department provided a short update on the last meeting of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDISG) of 12th December 2019 with Minister McGrath chairing.

The focus of the meeting was the mid-term review of the Strategy, specifically the outcomes of the public consultations, CRPD reporting, and a traffic light report. Department of Justice & Equality advised a number of issues arose at public meetings, including transport, advocacy, PA support, and a general lack of awareness of the NDIS.

The Department noted that a special cabinet meeting on disability issues was scheduled for 9th January 2020, and in that regard the mid-term review of the NDIS was to be approved at that meeting. The Department of Health is awaiting further details from the Department of Justice & Equality.

3. Personalised Budgets (PB).

Department of Health provided an update.

There are two phases to the pilot project. 90 individuals in each phase will receive some form of PB by either – (a) Person Managed Fund (Direct Payment), (b) Co-Managed, (c) Brokerage (only available in Phase 2).

It was noted that 80% of those eligible for the scheme are in receipt of Day services for a long number of years. A profile had been compiled of the applicants specifying the nature of each applicant's disability. Anyone in receipt of a HSE-funded service was eligible to apply for the PB scheme.

The HSE stated that applicants “who had taken a leap of faith” in the PB scheme, would be allowed to revert back to their former service provision if they are not satisfied. Changes in work practices may be required in the hours currently provided to service users. An extension under the PB scheme (possibly from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m) this would have to be agreed by, HSE, Unions, etc.

DSG requested clarification on eligibility and selection criteria.

- ✓ **Action:** DoH will revert to the Committee clarifying the eligibility and selection criteria in respect of the PB scheme.

4 Update on NDIS reporting / UNCRPD reporting.

NDA gave a brief presentation.

The Department of Justice & Equality has responsibility for the implementation of the UNCRPD and hopes that the NDIS could be a conduit for UNCRPD reporting.

There are some articles within the UNCRPD specifying a lot of actions required, other articles require only one action. Specifically, Article 6 which is in relation to women with disabilities. The reason instanced for single action requirement is that these matters come within the remit of existing legislation on such issue(s).

Articles 12 & 13 relate to equal recognition before the law and access to justice respectively.

A number of bilateral meetings with other Departments have taken place. The next step will be to use the information garnered from these Departments for the next phase of NDA analysis of the UNCRPD.

- ✓ **Action:** NDA will arrange for the circulation of the presentation and spreadsheet to the committee.

5. Thematic Meetings, NDIS Mid Term Review, Sláintecare & Disabilities, etc.

DSG suggested that six key issues relating to Disability health topics be chosen for the remaining meetings this year with a discussion as to how the committee chooses them.

It was noted that agendas for the last number of meetings were compiled on foot of suggestions from committee members.

It was pointed out that there are issues in the NDIS that are not health-specific (transport was instanced as health related). The Chair suggested that perhaps an invite issue to the Department of Transport for a presentation to the committee at a future meeting. NDA pointed out that DSG members on other Department's DCC's inform and share information with each other.

It was agreed that Thematic meetings were generally viewed as a good approach and that following the next Steering Group meeting on 6th February, proposed items would be sought from DCC members.

- ✓ **Actions:** Members E-mail the secretariat with proposed topic suggestions which will be condensed into themes for future meetings this year.

NDIS Mid Term Review

The Chair noted that the Dept. of Justice & Equality has responsibility for the NDIS and matters pertaining to the mid-term review.

Sláintecare & Disabilities

The Chair provided a brief overview of Sláintecare, specifically that six Regional Health Areas are envisaged, with each Area being reflective of population size and the budget for each Area being proportionate to the population. It is understood that Slaintecare teams are engaging with organisations countrywide.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that an invitation issue to Sláintecare for an update to the committee later in the year.

- ✓ **Action:** Secretariat will contact Sláintecare to give a presentation to the committee later this year.

6.AOB

The HSE's 4th "Time to Move on" Newsletter was circulated to the committee for information. The Chair mentioned that the article on the decongregation experiences for St. Margaret's, Donnybrook was very interesting and well worth reading

Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 22/4/20 @11:00 a.m. in Miesian Plaza