

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Your Ref

Our Ref: AQW 6838/16-21

Date: 29 December 2016

Robbie a chara

You recently asked in AQW 6838/16-21 for a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Health Partnership Forum.

I have now placed a copy of the Terms of Reference in the Assembly Library for your information.

Is mise le meas

MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
Minister of Health



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Health

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STRATEGIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

TERMS OF REFERENCE (2016)

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1.0 Introduction

The Department has a statutory responsibility to promote an integrated system of health and social care (HSC) designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people across the north of Ireland, through the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness and by addressing health inequalities.

With increasing demands and complex challenges of the health of the population in the 21st century, from persisting problems to new and emerging public health threats, developing a system of public health within the HSC is an essential and continuing task.

In achieving this, it is a valued respected and well trained HSC workforce that makes the most difference to the public. In order to ensure a health and social care system that pursues excellence; ensures better outcomes for the public; and enhances the experience of health and social care for the population, we need a Forum with all relevant partners to provide strategic influence in both policy development and service delivery.

Effective partnership working requires: recognition of, and respect for, the organisational goals of partners; the development of shared aims; and an agreed approach on the way forward.

2.0 Partnership Agreement

This paper puts forward a new framework for partnership working for the HSC. It reflects the consensus view of the Department, employing authorities and Trade Unions. All partners are firmly committed to the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of service users, developing a valued and well trained work force and ensuring that our local population should have equal access to health and social care.

Partnerships contribute positively to both measures and processes of outcomes which will tackle health inequalities, lead to better public health policy co-ordination and strategic integration at all levels.

All partners are committed to the following overarching principles:

- An overriding commitment to the health and well-being of members of staff, patients, clients and carers;
- The development of common goals, shared aims and an agreed approach on the way forward;
- A mutual respect and trust for each other's roles and responsibilities;
- Top level commitment;
- Openness, honesty and transparency in communications;
- Agreed communications from Forum representatives;
- Early discussion of emerging issues and maintaining dialogue on strategic policy and priorities;
- A positive and constructive approach;
- Ensuring a 'no surprises' culture;
- Confidentiality and agreed external positions; and
- In order to help all parties engage in genuine problem solving rather than adopting traditional bargaining positions, partnership meetings should be separate from any subsequent negotiations that may be required.

In carrying out its work, the Forum shall aim to meet on a quarterly basis and may appoint, as appropriate, sub groups to take 'task and finish' work forward. The Partnership Forum will also involve other specialist contributors as appropriate.

To encourage open and honest discussion, meetings will not be recorded. Any agreed actions will be circulated by email to members.

3.0 Membership

Michelle O'Neill	Minister of Health
Ciarán O'Connor	Special Adviser
Richard Pengelly	DoH
Michael McBride	DoH
Deborah McNeilly	DoH
Charlotte McArdle	DoH
Jackie Johnston	DoH
Sean Holland	DoH
Valerie Watts	HSCB & PHA
Hugh McCaughey	SEHSCT
Francis Rice	SHSCT
Tony Stevens	NHSCT
Elaine Way	WHSCT
Martin Dillon	BHSCT
Liam McIvor	BSO
David McManus	NIAS
Gary Thompson	NIFRS
Anne Speed	ICTU
Jim Quinn	Fire Brigades Union
Patricia McKeown	UNISON
Breedagh Hughes	RCM
Garrett Martin	RCN
Kevin McAdam	UNITE
Kevin McCabe	NIPSA
Claire Armstrong	BMA
Grainne Quinn	BDA
Carolyn Ewart	NI Association of Social Workers
Claire Ronald	Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Leandre Archer	Society of Radiographers
Ron Banton	British Dietetic Association
Graham Pirie	Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists
Kate Lesslar	Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Invitations to additional representatives will be issued as appropriate.

The Forum will be served by a Departmental secretariat.

4.0 Frequency of meetings

The Forum shall aim to meet on a quarterly basis.

5.0 Terms of reference

To provide a forum which facilitates discussion and collaboration among key stakeholders across the HSC, to enable them to influence the strategic direction of

policy development, and the interventions required to deliver on the strategic outcomes identified within the Executive's Programme for Government.

The main responsibility of the Forum is to ensure that the HSC fulfils its objectives of improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and tackling health inequalities, taking into account the strategic direction set by the Executive and the Department of Health through the Minister's Health and Wellbeing 2026 – Delivering Together document.

6.0 Structures and Processes.

All partners will have responsibilities within the Forum and will be required to demonstrate commitment and be willing to contribute to partnership working. This involves accepting responsibility to try to reach decisions by consensus in a demonstration of confidence and confidentiality to enhance the partnership approach.

All partners agree to work within the terms of the agreement and any disagreement should not prejudice a Partner's position. There will be situations where, although supportive of partnership working, the Partners are unable to agree a joint approach. There should be recognition that Partners retain the right to represent their interests.

7.0 Review terms of reference

The Forum shall review its terms of Reference on an annual basis including how consensus decisions are implemented in practice.

8.0 Attendance/ Deputising

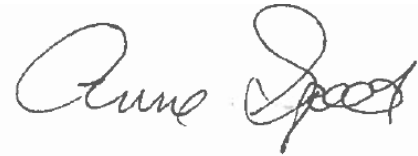
In order to ensure the effective function of the forum, members, must be committed to attendance at meetings. Any member unable to attend a meeting will be entitled to send a fully briefed deputy with authority, with prior agreement from the secretariat. Any deputy should act as a representative of the Forum member, rather than focusing on their own area of work.

Signed on behalf of:

The Department

HSC Employers

Trade Unions



Michelle O'Neill MLA

Valerie Watts

Anne Speed

Minister for Health

HSCB & PHA

NIC-ICTU