1. **Anti-Human Trafficking Working Groups**

Five interdisciplinary working groups meet to develop Ireland’s response to human trafficking based on the objectives and actions contained within the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland (2016). The groups are chaired by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Department of Justice and Equality and comprise representatives from relevant Government Agencies, NGOs and international organisations. These groups report to an Interdepartmental High Level Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

The five Working Groups report to an Interdepartmental High Level Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Interdepartmental High Level Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was established by the Minister for Justice in 2007 to recommend to him the most appropriate and effective responses to trafficking in human beings. The group comprises senior representatives from the key Government Departments and Agencies.

The group comprises Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit of An Garda Síochána (HTICU), INIS, Workplace Relations Commission, Reception and Integration Agency, Legal Aid Board, HSE, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), GNIB, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Health, Tusla.

The Working Groups are:

1.1 **National Referral Mechanism Working (NRM) Working Group**

This group focusses on the ongoing development of the NRM, the term given to the identification of victims and the provision of State services to them.

Attendees of the group have included AHTU (chair), Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), Health Service Executive (HSE), Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS), Legal Aid Board (LAB), Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ruhama.

1.2. **Sexual Exploitation Working Group**

The focus of the Sexual Exploitation group is to assess anti-human trafficking policies and programmes in relation to sexual exploitation; examine issues and make recommendations; facilitate cooperation between Government Departments/Agencies with NGOs/civil society groups in establishing strategic partnerships in developing anti-human trafficking measures, policies and programmes; monitor the implementation of national legislation in relation to sexual exploitation; explore legislative, administrative, educational, social, cultural and other measures which impact on and discourage demand for sexual services of victims of trafficking.

Attendees of the group have included AHTU (chair), GNIB, HSE, INIS, Ruhama, ICI, National Women’s Council of Ireland, DEASP, Department of Health, Irish Observatory on Violence against Women, IOM, Dignity Project, ICTU, Doras Luimní.

1.3. **Awareness-Raising and Training Working Group**

The focus of the Awareness Raising and Training Group is the ongoing communication of awareness raising/training activities relating to human trafficking between State/NGOs and international organisations within the group and to consider the implications of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking for prevention measure to combat trafficking in Ireland.

Attendees of the group have included AHTU (chair), Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit of An Garda Síochána (HTICU), Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT), Soroptomist International, Donegal Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Doras Luimní, Workplace Relations Commission, Invisible Traffick, IOM, Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Trafficking with the Hospitality Sector (MECPATHS), Men’s Development Network, MRCI, DEASP, HSE, US Embassy, Mary Immaculate College, Ruhama, National Women’s Council of Ireland, Akidwa, ICI, Sexual Violence Centre Cork, INIS, Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

1.4. **Child Trafficking Working Group**

The focus of the Child Trafficking Group is to make recommendations on the following matters:

* Child sensitive approach in the development, implementation and assessment of anti-human trafficking policies and programmes.
* Standardised approach to the identification and care of child victims based on international best practice.
* Special protection measures necessary for child victims taking account of the best interests of the child.
* Encourage greater awareness of child trafficking issues among personnel engaged with children and facilitate collaboration between State authorities and relevant support organisations.
* Develop an awareness and understanding of the risk of trafficking within the tourism industry. Encourage responsible business practices and procedures with a view to discouraging child trafficking.
* To explore bilateral/multilateral/international co-operation in verifying coluntary return arrangements and assisting with the search for missing children who may be trafficked.

Attendees of the group have included AHTU (chair), HSE, DEASP, Irish Refugee Council, Children’s Rights Alliance, INIS, Barnardos, Irish Youth Justice Service, Ombudsman for Children, Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

**1.5. Labour Exploitation Working Group**

The focus of the Labour Exploitation Group is to examine and make recommendations on issues in relation to trafficking for labour exploitation, and monitor the implementation of the measures set out in the National Action Plan.

Attendees of the group have included AHTU (chair), the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, HTICU, Workplace Relations Commission, Legal Aid Board, HSE, MRCI, ICI, Office of Government Procurement, ICTU, IOM, INIS.

1. **Juries Working Group**

**Focus of Working Group**

The Justice Sector Working Group on Jury Service is examining the issues raised in the Report of the Law Reform Commission on Jury Service published in 2013 [LRC 107 – 2013] along with any associated material or developments and will make its own recommendations.

The Working Group has an agreed work programme based on its mandate and is considering a number of submissions. The conclusions of the work of the Group will form the basis of a report and a draft General Scheme of a Juries Service Bill building on the initial draft for such a scheme proposed by the Law Reform Commission in its 2013 Report.

**Members of Working Group**

The membership of the Working Group, which was convened in April 2018 and is chaired by my Department, is drawn from senior officials of the relevant Divisions of the Department of Justice and Equality as well as the Courts Service, Forensic Science Ireland, An Garda Síochána and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

1. **Joint Working Group on Abhaile**

**Focus of Working Group**

Abhaile is the government’s scheme of aid and advice for borrowers in mortgage arrears. Abhaile, launched in October 2016, gives indebted borrowers access to panels of qualified and regulated financial or legal professionals to give advice and assistance on how to resolve their mortgage arrears on their homes. The scheme is jointly coordinated by the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, and implemented by the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS), working with the Insolvency Service of Ireland (ISI), the Legal Aid Board, and the Citizens' Information Board.

The focus of the Joint Working Group on Abhaile is the coordination and governance of the Abhaile scheme. The group meets regularly to report on the operation of Abhaile and to address and to address any issues arising. The working group also is involved in producing the Abhaile Annual reports.

**Members of Working Group**

Chairs: Principal Officer, Civil Law Reform Division, Department of Justice and Equality, Principal Officer, CIB Liaison Unit, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection,

Members: Principal Officer Abhaile Unit Citizens Information Board, Business Manager MABS National Development Ltd., Principal Officer, Insolvency Service of Ireland, Assistant Director, Civil Operations Legal Aid Board, Representative of the Courts Service.

1. **Decision Support Service Steering Group**

**Focus of Working Group**

The Decision Support Service Group was established by the Department to oversee the establishment and commissioning of the Decision Support Service.

The focus of the Steering Group is to oversee the establishment and commissioning of the Decision Support Service and this work is ongoing. The Group meets approximately once a month.

**Members of Working Group**

The membership of the Steering Group is comprised of senior officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Health, the Mental Health Commission and the Courts Service, together with the Director of the Decision Support Service.

1. **Surrogacy Interdepartmental Group**

**Focus of Working Group**

The Surrogacy Interdepartmental Group was established by the Department in 2011 to oversee developments in the area of surrogacy.

The focus of the Group is on international surrogacy. The Group meets approximately once a year.

**Members of Working Group**

The membership of the Group is comprised of senior officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with the Office of the Chief State Solicitor and the Office of the Attorney General.

1. **Family Law Court Working Group**

**Focus of Working Group**

The Family Law Court Working Group was established by the Department in 2017 to develop proposals in relation to the creation of a new dedicated Family Court within the existing court structures.

The focus of the Group is to examine the operational aspects relating to the Family Court and develop an overall architecture for the new family court structure.

**Members of Working Group**

The membership of the Group is comprised of senior officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Courts Service and the Legal Aid Board.  The Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla have also participated in the Working Group.

1. **An Inter-Departmental Steering Group was convened by the Department of Justice and Equality to consider the EU Commission proposal to end clock changes in Member States**

**Focus of Working Group**

The purpose of the Steering Group is to oversee a public consultation exercise on the proposal and to develop conclusions and recommendations for a report to Government.

**Members of Working Group**

The following Departments are represented PO level on the Group: Justice and Equality, Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Education and Skills, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Health, Public Expenditure and Reform, Rural and Community Development, Taoiseach and Transport, Tourism and Sport.

1. **North/South Support for Victims Project Advisory Group (PAG)**

**Focus of work**

The North/South Support for Victims Project Advisory Group (PAG) operates as a cross border information sharing group on victim of crime policy issues under the framework of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Co-operation on Criminal Justice Matters (IGA) which was signed by the two Governments on 26 July 2005.

**Membership**

Membership includes representatives from the following

* Department of Justice and Equality (Victims of Crime Office) and Department of Justice Northern Ireland
* An Garda Siochána and the PSNI
* Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Public Prosecution Service
* Courts Service and Courts and Tribunal Service NI

1. **Victims Services Group of the Criminal Justice Strategic Committee**

**Focus of work**

The Victim Services Group was established in July 2015 with the overarching aim of ensuring effective support to victims of crime is provided across the criminal justice sector.

The Group is a sub-group reporting to its senior parent Criminal Justice Strategic Committee which operates to drive enhanced co-operation and collaboration across the sector.

**Membership**

The agencies represented on the group include An Garda Síochána, GSOC, the Courts Service, Legal Aid Board, the Probation Service, Office of the DPP, Irish Prison Service, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal, the Central Mental Hospital, the Coroner Service, representatives of the Judiciary, and the Department’s Victims of Crime office.

1. **Advisory Group for the National Awareness Campaign allied to the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, 2016-2021**

**Focus of work**

To advise and act as a sounding board for the national awareness campaign. The Group meets four times a year. Established in 2016.

**Membership**

Membership includes representatives from the following:

* Department. of Education and Skills
* Rape Crisis Network Ireland
* An Garda Síochána
* SAFE Ireland
* AMEN
* Road Safety Authority
* HSE
* A Freelance campaign expert
* Tusla
* National Women’s Council of Ireland
* Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

1. **Interdepartmental Group to review and plan the states response to the National Awareness Campaign for the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, 2016-2021**

**Focus of work**

To discuss the possible impacts following launch of the national awareness campaign and to agree a plan of action to respond to the campaign. Established in 2016.

**Membership**

Membership includes representatives from the following:

* An Garda Siochána
* Department of Justice and Equality
* The Courts Service
* The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
* The Department of Education and Skills
* Tusla - The Child and Family Agency
* The Department of Children and Youth Affairs
* H.S.E

1. **Monitoring Committee for the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

**Focus of work**

The monitoring committee was established to monitor the implementation of the strategy’s actions. The committee meets at least twice a year to consider the progress reports from the strategy’s implementing bodies.

**Membership**

The monitoring committee is comprised of key State and non-State actors and includes An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Courts Service, Probation Service, HSE, CSO, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Department of Education and Skills, Amen, Move Ireland, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, SONAS, NWCI, Safe Ireland, Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Pavee Point, Akidwa, Ruhama, Law Society of Ireland, Women’s Aid, Bar Counsel of Ireland.

1. **Strategy Oversight Group for the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

**Focus of work**

The oversight group was established to oversee the implementation of the strategy, and identify solutions to blockages to ensure the strategy’s actions are successfully implemented. The group meets at least twice a year.

**Membership**

The oversight group is comprised of senior officials from key departments and agencies including An Garda Síochána, Tusla, the Courts Service, the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

1. **The Working Group on Efficiency Measures in the Criminal Justice System - Circuit and District Courts**

The remit of the Group is to identify and report on how greater efficiencies and cost reduction measures that can be achieved in the operations of the Circuit and District Courts, with particular emphasis on how the agencies in the sector interact with the courts and with each other. The Working Group, chaired by the Department of Justice and Equality, includes a judge each from the Circuit and District Courts, as well as senior representatives from the Courts Service, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Office of the Attorney General and the Legal Aid Board.

1. **Community Court Justice Sector Working Group**

Community Court Justice Sector Working Group established in 2015 to evaluate how the Community Court model will work in the Irish context, comprising senior departmental officials and representatives from the Courts Service, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána.

1. **Working Group on Establishment of the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator**

The Group’s purpose is to facilitate the transition from Office of the Taxing Master to Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator. The Group comprises of senior departmental officials, Taxing Masters and senior representatives from the Courts Service.

1. **Criminal Justice (Fixed Charge Processing System) Working Group**

**Focus of work**

The working group was established following the Garda Síochána Inspectorate’s review of the Fixed Charge Processing System. The function of the Criminal Justice (FCPS) Working Group is to oversee and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Garda Inspectorate’s report on the Fixed Charge Processing System.

**Membership composition**

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (co-chair); An Garda Síochána; the Office of the DPP; the Road Safety Authority; the Courts Service; Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; Revenue Commissioners.

1. **Insurance Fraud Database Working Group**

**Focus of work**

The group was convened to consider recommendation 25 of the Department of Finance’s ‘Report on the Cost of Motor Insurance’, which is to establish a fully functioning integrated fraud database for industry to detect patterns of fraud. This group is a subgroup of the main ‘Cost of Insurance Working Group’, established by D/Finance.

**Membership composition**

An Garda Síochána; Department of Finance; Motor Insurer’s Bureau of Ireland; Insurance Ireland.

1. **Criminal Justice Strategic Committee**

**Focus of work**

The Criminal Justice Strategic Committee was established in March 2015 to provide collaborative leadership across the criminal justice system. The Strategic Committee is chaired by the Secretary General/Deputy Secretary General of the Department and includes the Heads of the various executive bodies across the Criminal Justice sector, including An Garda Síochána, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Policing Authority. The Committee is also attended by members of my Department’s Management Board with responsibilities in the criminal justice area.

The CJSC oversees an ongoing work programme of initiatives to improve the exchange of information, expertise and ideas across the justice sector, and to identify and accelerate reforms that require structured inter-agency co-operation.

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice (Chair), An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, DPP, Irish Prison Service (IPS), Probation Service, Forensic Science Ireland, Policing Authority, Legal Aid Board.

1. **Working Group on Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System**

**Focus of work**

This Working Group was established as a subgroup of the Criminal Justice Strategic Committee. The Working Group is chaired by the Department of Justice. Its remit is to consider the issues that may be impacting on public confidence in the criminal justice system and, in this context, to examine the possible scope, terms and methodology of research on this issue. Once the proposed research has been completed, it is envisaged that the Working Group will examine the findings and report back to the Criminal Justice Strategic Committee with its recommendations on how the sector might best respond to the issues identified.

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice (Chair), An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, DPP, IPS, Probation Service, Forensic Science Ireland, Policing Authority.

1. **High Level Group on Offender Management**

**Focus of work**

The aims of this Group are to assess the implementation of the Joint Strategy on Offender Management 2016-18, identify the areas where further work is needed, and agree a successor Strategy for the coming years (along with arrangements to monitor its subsequent implementation).

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice (Chair), An Garda Síochána, IPS, Probation Service

1. **Value For Money Review of Prison Escorts – Delivery Oversight Group**

**Focus of work**

The Delivery Oversight Group’ has been established to further assess the report of the [Value For Money Review of Prisoner Escorts](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/VFMPR%20Prisoner%20Escorts%202018.pdf/Files/VFMPR%20Prisoner%20Escorts%202018.pdf) and to develop an implementation programme. This has been included in the Government’s [Implementation Plan for the report of the Commission on the Future of Policing (COFPI)](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/govieassets/4940/181218143710-463c924cbcbd4da4a548515866185cde.pdf#page=here) in the context of addressing COFPI recommendations on relieving An Garda Síochána of non-core duties.

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice (Chair), An Garda Síochána, IPS, Courts Service, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

1. **Review Group on Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Structures**

**Focus of work**

In November 2017, the Government published a [suite of measures aimed at enhancing corporate governance, increasing transparency and strengthening Ireland’s response to White Collar Crime](https://merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/ImageLibrary/20171101_Measures_to_Enhance_Regulatory_Framework.pdf). Among these measures was a commitment to review Ireland’s Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud structures and procedures in criminal law enforcement through a dedicated Review Group. The Review Group will assess the extent to which the various State bodies involved in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of fraud and corruption are working effectively together, and identify any gaps or impediments in this regard.

In 2018, the Minister for Justice and Equality appointed Mr. James Hamilton, former Director of Public Prosecutions and anti-corruption expert, to chair the Review Group. The Review Group comprises a range of relevant Government Departments, State agencies and other experts.

**Membership composition**

James Hamilton, former DPP (Chair), Department of Justice and Equality (Secretariat), An Garda Síochána, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Department of Finance, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Revenue Commissioners, Office of the DPP, Central Bank of Ireland, Banking and Payments Federation Ireland, Standards in Public Office Commission, member of the Bar, Competition and Consumer Protection Commissioner, Office of the Director for Corporate Enforcement.

1. **Justice Sector Children First Implementation Committee**

**Focus of work**

This Committee was established to oversee the implementation of the Children First Act and its associated policies and procedures across the Justice Sector. The Committee is Chaired by the Department of Justice and comprises representatives from all of the key justice agencies that have obligations arising under the Children First Act and best practice in child protection.

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice (Chair), An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, IPS, Probation Service, Reception and Integration Agency, Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, Legal Aid Board, Irish Refugee Protection Programme, Tusla, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

1. **Implementation Group re Garda Inspectorate’s follow-up report “Responding to Child Sexual Abuse December 2017**

**Focus of work**

This implementation group which is chaired by Caroline Biggs SC, was established on foot of Government decision dated 27 February 2018, to drive and oversee implementation of recommendations and key actions in the Garda Inpectorate’s follow-up report “Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – December 2017”.

The Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) is represented on the Group at PO level and admin support is provided by an AP, Crime Division. The Group is required to report to Cabinet Committee B on a quarterly basis. The first of these reports has been published on the DJE website.

**Membership composition**

An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

1. **Working Group on Electronic Monitoring**

**Focus of work**

The Working Group was established in December 2016 and is tasked with examining a range of issues surrounding the implementation of electronic monitoring in an Irish context.

**Membership composition**

Department of Justice and Equality (Chair), An Garda Síochána, The Courts Service, Office of the DPP, The Probation Service, The Irish Prison Service.

1. **High Level Group on Criminal Justice Legislation (subgroup of the Criminal Justice Strategic Committee)**

**Focus of work**

The focus of the group is on developing proposals for reform in criminal justice legislation. It is also focussed on improving communication between criminal justice agencies on legislative proposals.

**Membership composition**

Assistant Secretary, Criminal Law Reform, Department of Justice and Equality (Chairperson), Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Deputy Director, Forensic Science Ireland, Deputy Director, Probation Service, Head of the Legal and Professional Standards Office, Irish Prison Service, Executive Director, Legal and Compliance, An Garda Síochána, Assistant Secretary, Crime Division, Department of Justice and Equality, Principal Officer, Criminal Law Reform, Department of Justice and Equality, Director of Reform and Development, Courts Service

1. **Senior Officials Compliance Committee – GRECO**

**Focus of work**

The focus of this group is to work towards the implementation of recommendations made by the Council of Europe Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) in their 4th Round Evaluation Report on Ireland. The group also feeds into communication with GRECO in the form of compliance reports, generally provided annually. The 4th round of evaluations related to corruption prevention in respect of judges, prosecutors and parliamentarians.

**Membership composition**

Principal Officer, Criminal Law Reform, Department of Justice and Equality (Chairperson), Assistant Principal, Criminal Law Reform, Department of Justice and Equality, Principal Officer, Civil Law Reform, Department of Justice and Equality, Principal Officer, Courts Policy, Department of Justice and Equality, Assistant Principal, Courts Policy, Department of Justice and Equality, Director of Reform and Development, Courts Service, Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Head of Ethics and Lobbying Regulation, Standards in Public Office

1. **Working group on the review of protections for vulnerable witnesses in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences**

**Focus of the group**

To review the adequacy of the mechanisms available in law and practice relating to protect vulnerable witnesses the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences, in particular certain matters set out in the terms of reference.

**Membership**

Chair - Tom O’Malley BL, Senior Lecturer in Law at NUI Galway, member of Law Reform Commission

Representatives from Courts Service, An Garda Síochána, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Probation Service, Department of Justice and Equality

1. **Working Group on Irish participation in the European Investigation Order**

**Focus of the group**

As the name suggests the group is considering the implications and resourcing issues which arise in the context of any eventual decision by Ireland to opt into Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters

**Membership**

The group is comprised of staff of from the Department Justice and Equality, Office of the Attorney General, Chief State Solicitor's Office, An Garda Síochána, Courts Service, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Revenue Commissioners

1. **Criminal Justice Data Protection Officer (DPO) Working Group**

**Focus of the group**

To review Data Protection issues and exchange Data Protection related experiences.

**Membership**

Data Protection Officers in the Department of Justice and Equality and in Criminal Justice Agencies e.g. An Garda Síochána, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Board, GSOC.

1. **DJE GDPR Steering Group**

**Focus of the group**

To approve the GDPR Implementation Plan and monitor Data Protection compliance in the Department

**Membership**

Chaired by an Assistant Secretary of the Department the Group is made up of senior staff and the DPO.

1. **Working Group to consider alternative approaches to the possession of drugs for personal use jointly established by D/JE and D/Health**

**Focus of the group**

To consider alternative approaches to the possession of drugs for personal use.

**Membership**

Chair – retired Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeal, D/Health officials (4), D/Justice and Equality officials (2), Non-Government Representative (2), Representative from the HSE, Representative from the Health Research Board, Criminal Law Expert, Representative from the Office of the DPP, Representative from the Probation Service, Representative from An Garda Síochána

1. **National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) 2017 – 2021 Steering Committee**

This Committee is chaired by Minister of State David Stanton TD and consists of representatives of the Traveller and Roma communities, as well as of representatives of relevant Government Departments and Agencies. The Steering Group has been tasked with the oversight of the implementation of the actions contained in the strategy.

The following sub-committees have been set up to report back to the Steering Group on specific issues:

**Education Sub Group** – This sub group has been established to focus on the education related actions in the NTRIS. This group is made up of members of the Traveller organisations, Department of Education and Skills, Tusla and Department of Justice and Equality. A smaller more focused group (from the membership of the wider Education Sub-Group) has also been established to work on a pilot project to trial a new approach to address the retention of Traveller and Roma children in education.

**Ethnic Identifier Sub Group -** The sub-group is focused on the issue of data collection on ethnic grounds.  The group’s membership is comprised of representatives from a number of relevant Government Departments and the Central Statistics Office. Representatives of the Traveller and Roma organisations are also involved.

**Mediation/Feuding Sub Group** – This sub-group is comprised of Department of Justice and Equality, An Garda Síochána and representatives of the Traveller organisations. The sub-group is carrying out the relevant action of the Strategy to bring an end to feuding definitely over a period of time.

**Employment Sub Group** – This sub-group is made up of relevant Departmental and Agency representatives and a number of Traveller and Roma representative organsisations. The sub-group will focus on the employment actions contained within the Strategy.

1. **National LGBTI Inclusion Strategy Oversight Group**

The Equality Division of my Department is in the process of developing a National LGBTI Inclusion Strategy which will be monitored by an oversight group comprised of interdepartmental and NGO representatives and chaired by the Minister of State.

To date, in support of the development of the strategy a number of interdepartmental meetings have taken place.  An exploratory meeting took place in June 2018 prior to the consultation phase.  More recently, on 13th March 2019, the Secretary General of the Department of Justice & Equality chaired a meeting of senior officials from across Government Departments to discuss the consultation findings and the development of potential measures.  This is to be followed by a series of thematic meetings focussing on specific areas of action.

1. **National Disability Inclusion Strategy Implementation Group**

The Strategy’s Implementation Group is chaired by Minister of State Finian McGrath TD and meets on a quarterly basis to monitor and oversee implementation of the Strategy, with detailed assessments taking place twice per year. The Group is made up of senior representatives from Government Departments, the National Disability Authority and the Disability Stakeholders Group.

1. **National Disability Inclusion Strategy Implementation Group – Officials Subgroup**

The National Disability Inclusion Strategy Implementation Group – Officials Subgroup meets in advance of each implementation Group meeting to discuss items on forthcoming agendas, to provide any relevant updates, and to address any outstanding issues in advance of the Implementation Group. The Subgroup includes representation from Government Departments assigned actions under the Strategy and from the National Disability Authority.

1. **Comprehensive Employment Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – Implementation Group**

The Strategy sets out a ten-year approach to ensuring that people with disabilities who are able to, and want to, work are supported and enabled to do so. It is a cross-government approach that brings together actions by different Departments and State agencies in a concerted effort to address the barriers and challenges that impact on the employment of people with disabilities.

Implementation of the Strategy is monitored by the Comprehensive Employment Strategy Implementation Group which is independently chaired by Mr. Fergus Finlay.

The Group meets on a monthly basis to monitor and oversee implementation of the Strategy, with the Chair preparing an annual independent report on implementation each year. The Group is made up of senior representatives from Government Departments, the National Disability Authority and representatives from the Disability Sector.

1. **Firearms Assessment and Appeals Authority Working Group**

**Focus of Group**

Progressing the intention announced in 2015 to establish a Firearms Assessment and Appeals Authority

**Membership**

Representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality and Departmental Agencies.

1. **Strategy Committee for the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020**

**Focus of working group**

The Strategy Committee was appointed in February 2017 to advise the Department of Justice and Equality on the preparation and implementation of the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020.

**Membership of working group**

The Committee is chaired by David Stanton TD, Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration. Its other members are representatives of IBEC, ICTU, the Union of Students in Ireland, the National Women's Council of Ireland, the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks, the Irish Farmers Association, The Wheel, The Community Platform, the National Traveller Women's Forum (representing Traveller and Roma women), the Children's Rights Alliance (representing the Community and Voluntary Pillar), and officials, at Assistant Secretary, Principal Officer and Assistant Principal levels, representing the following Government Departments and Agencies: the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the Department of Defence, the Department of Education and Skills; the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection; the Department of Finance; the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Department of Health; the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; the Department of Justice and Equality; the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; the Department of Rural and Community Development; the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; the Health Service Executive; Enterprise Ireland; the Public Appointments Service; and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. There is currently a vacancy on the Committee representing the City and County Management Association.

1. **Balance for Better Business Review Group**

**Focus of working group**

In line with a Government commitment in the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020, the Balance for Better Business Review Group was launched in July 2018 as a business-led review group to examine the representation of women on corporate boards and in senior management of companies and to make recommendations for action to address the under-representation of women in business leadership positions.

**Membership of working group**

The Review Group is co-chaired by Bríd Horan, an independent non-executive director of FBD Holding plc and the former deputy Chief Executive of the ESB, and by Gary Kennedy, a non-executive director and chair of Greencore Plc. Assisting Ms Horan and Mr Kennedy on the review group are senior figures in Irish business and the public service - Carol Andrews, Global Head of Client Experience (Service Directors), BNY Mellon and Country Lead 30% Club Ireland; Mark FitzGerald, non-executive chairman of Sherry FitzGerald; Aongus Hegarty, President, Dell EMC EMEA; Danny McCoy, CEO of IBEC; Martin Shanahan, CEO of IDA Ireland; Julie Sinnamon, CEO of Enterprise Ireland; Fiona Tierney, non-executive director at eir Ireland and of the Irish Management Institute (IMI); and Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

1. **Business Process Review Oversight Group (Prison Service)**

**Focus of working group:**

Joint Steering Group to oversee and direct the work of the Business Process Review Project in the Prison Service.

The objective of the project is to implement a quality improvement programme to ensure that there are effective financial, administrative and other operational processes embedded across the Prison Service

**Membership of working group**

Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Director of Finance and Estates, Irish Prison Service, Deputy Director of Finance and Estates, Irish Prison Service, Director of Human Resources, Irish Prison Service, Head of Financial Shared Service, Department of Justice and Equality, Governor 1 Operations Directorate Irish Prison Service, Head of Internal Audit, Department of Justice and Equality, Principal Officer Prison and Probation Policy Division, Department of Justice and Equality, Business Process Review Team

1. **Financial Management Committee**

**Focus of working group:**

Provide a Vote Group perspective on voted funds to the key stakeholders such as the Minister, Departmental Board, and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

**Membership of working group**

Assistant Secretary, Corporate Services, Department of Justice and Equality, Head of Finance for Vote Group and Heads of Finance representing individual votes within the Justice Vote Group as follows:

1. Courts Vote

2. Garda Vote

3. Irish Human Rights and Equality Vote

4. Justice and Equality Vote

5. Policing Authority Vote.

6. Prisons Vote

1. **Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)**

The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was established by Government Decision on 10 September 2015 as a direct response to the humanitarian crisis that developed in Southern Europe as a consequence of mass migration from areas of conflict in the Middle East and Africa. Under this programme, the Government pledged to accept a total of 4,000 persons into the State. A multi-faceted approach was adopted to the implementation of the IRPP:

**44.1 IRPP Taskforce**

A cross-departmental, inter-agency Taskforce was established under the IRPP to implement the programme across all relevant Government Departments and to coordinate the operational and logistical aspects of the programme.

The Taskforce, has a whole-of-Government approach and its membership contains representatives from Department of Justice and Equality, Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI), International Protection Office (IPO), Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS), An Garda Síochána, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, City and County Management Association (CCMA), Department of Education and Skills, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Office of Public Works (OPW), Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Health, Health Service Executive, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Tulsa, Department of Defence, Irish Red Cross, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**44.2 IRPP Housing Sub-Group**

Under the Taskforce, a housing sub-group was established to co-ordinate the provision of medium to long-term accommodation for people arriving under the IRPP. The sub-group prepared an approach for resettling people arriving under the IRPP according to a series of objective criteria including the population size of the county into which they were to be resettled.

The membership of the housing sub-group contains representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the City and County Management Association (CCMA), and the Irish Red Cross.

**44.3 Standards Advisory Group**

In June 2015 the Working Group to report to Government on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers (“McMahon Working Group”) submitted its report (“McMahon Report”) to Government. The McMahon Working Group recommended that an inspectorate, independent of the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), should be established to carry out inspections against the newly approved standards. The Standards Advisory Group was convened on 6 February 2017.

The membership of the group contains representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality AkiDwA, Children’s Rights Alliance, Core Group of Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Jesuit Refugee Service, Nasc (Irish Immigrant Support Centre), SPIRASI, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and the HSE National Office for Social Inclusion.

**44.4 Community Sponsorship Working Group**

Community sponsorship is a new way to welcome refugees to Ireland; it is a unique collaboration between Government, UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency), NGOs and civil society. Unlike Ireland's existing refugee resettlement programme, where the State provides integration services directly, Community sponsorship empowers members of the public who wish to become the face of welcome in their local community and to assume responsibility for providing a range of integration supports to a refugee family. The purpose of the Community Sponsorship Working Group is to oversee the development of a community sponsorship model in Ireland and to demonstrate the concept of community sponsorship in Ireland during an initial Development Phase to run from August 2018 to October 2019 and to develop the infrastructure necessary to scale up the programme when the full programme goes live thereafter.

The membership of the group contains representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the Irish Red Cross, NASC, and the Irish Refugee Council.

1. **Interdepartmental Group to examine issues relating to people with mental illness who come in contact with the Criminal Justice System**

**Work of the Group**

The Interdepartmental Group originated from the Health/Justice Cross-Sectoral Team which was established in 2009 for the purpose of addressing issues arising from the interaction between the criminal justice system and mental health services.

The report of the Thornton Hall Project Review Group, published in 2011, recommended that an interdepartmental group be set up to examine the issue of people with mental illness coming into the criminal justice system. The Health/Justice Cross-Sectoral Team was charged by the then Ministers for Health and Justice and Equality with this task. Specific terms of reference for the Interdepartmental Group were agreed and published in March 2012.

The Interdepartmental Group’s first interim report was published in September 2016. This interim report sets out the work of the Interdepartmental Group in relation to how diversion could be facilitated, where appropriate, at all stages of the criminal process up to the conclusion of a criminal trial.

The second report of the Interdepartmental Group will explore matters relating to mental health services for prisoners, matters relating to patients detained under the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 and post-release mental health services for former prisoners.

**Membership**

The Group includes representatives of the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service.

1. **Migrant Integration Strategy Monitoring and Co-ordination Committee**

**Focus of Group**

The purpose of the Committee is to oversee the implementation of the Migrant Integration Strategy, to agree indicators for monitoring progress and to prepare a progress report to Government.

**Membership**

* Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality (Chairperson)
* Department of Justice and Equality
* Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
* Department of Education and Skills
* Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government
* Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
* Department of Health
* Department of Children and Youth Affairs
* Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
* Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
* Department of Defence
* Department of Rural and Community Development
* Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
* An Garda Síochána
* Health Service Executive
* Public Appointments Service
* Central Statistics Office
* Education Training Board (ETB)
* Sport Ireland
* Doras Luimní
* NASC
* Cairde
* Immigrant Council of Ireland
* AkidWa
* New Communities Partnership (NCP)
* Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)
* Crosscare
* Cultúr
* Children's Rights Alliance
* Irish Refugee Council
* ICTU

1. **Integration Data Group**

**Focus of Group**

The purpose of the Group is to examine the administrative data relevant to migrant integration currently held by departments and agencies, to identify the gaps in relevant data, to explore possible solutions and develop recommendations for improving data gathering and use and to provide support and guidance to the ESRI in the research *“Mapping Data Needs for Monitoring Integration”*.

**Membership**

* Department of Justice and Equality
* Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
* Department of Education and Skills
* Department of Health
* Central Statistics Office (CSO)
* Economic and Social Research Institute

1. **Working Group on Industrial Relations Structures for An Garda Síochána**

**Focus of Group**

This high level cross-Departmental working group was established in early 2017 to introduce the legislative changes necessary to allow the Garda staff associations to gain access to the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court, and to address issues including the status of these associations, the right to strike and internal Garda industrial relations structures.

**Membership**

The Working Group was convened under an independent chair, Mr. John Murphy, formerly Secretary General of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Membership of the working group during the first phase of its terms of reference included representatives of the Departments of Justice and Equality, Public Expenditure and Reform, Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Defence, and the Department of the Taoiseach, in addition to Garda management and the Workplace Relations Commission. For the second phase of its remit, the membership has expanded to include representatives of the four Garda staff associations. The Department of the Taoiseach is not represented in this phase.

1. **Implementation and Oversight Group (IOG) charged with overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the Penal Policy Review Group (PPRG).**

The Penal Policy Review Group (PPRG) was established in 2012, in line with the recommendations of the Thornton Hall Project Review Group, to conduct a wide ranging strategic review of penal policy taking into account relevant work already carried out in this jurisdiction and elsewhere, the rights of those convicted of crimes, the perspective of those who are victims of crime and the interests of society in general.

The PPRG advocated an approach to crime and the penal system which emphasised rehabilitation and advocated for an improved penal system, the reduction of reliance on imprisonment as a sanction, and an increased focus on alternatives.

In November 2014, the report of the Group was submitted to Government. One of the recommendations was that an implementation and oversight mechanism should be set up to review progress. An Implementation and Oversight Group (IOG) was established in early 2015. Dr Mary Rogan who was a member of the Penal Policy Review Group was appointed as the chairperson of the implementation group.

The IOG group comprises officials from the Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and An Garda Síochána. The Group meets every six months. Its primary function is to report to the Minister, on a six monthly basis, on the implementation status of the recommendations of the PPRG. The IOG has presented six reports to the Minister for Justice and Equality, all of which were published on the Department’s website.

1. **Interagency Group on cooperation for a Fairer and Safer Ireland**.

The mission of the Interagency Group on cooperation for a Fairer and Safer Ireland is to improve interdepartmental and interagency coordination in the integration and rehabilitation of offenders and the prevention of crime as recommended by the Report of the Penal Policy Strategic Review Group.

Dr. Ruth Barrington was appointed by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice & Equality as Chairperson of this Group. The Interagency Group meets quarterly to progress its work and has produced an annual report for 2017 which is available on my Department’s website.

**Membership**

Dr Ruth Barrington Chairperson

Mr David Kelly, Dept. of the Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government

Ms Elaine Butler, Dublin Region Homeless Executive

Mr Paul Crowley, Central Statistics Office

Mr Deaglan O Briain, Youth Crime Policy & Programmes Division, Dept. Justice & Equality

(Alternate) Mr Brendan Sheehy, Youth Crime Policy & Programmes Division, Dept. Justice & Equality

Mr Phil O'Flaherty, Dept. of Education & Skills

(Alternate) Ms Deirdre Flynn, Dept. of Education & Skills

Mr John Conlan, Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

(Alternate) Mr Dan Harty, Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Chief Superintendent Matthew Niland, An Garda Síochána

(Alternate) Superintendent Tony O'Donnell, an Garda Síochána

Ms Margaret O'Neill, Courts Service

Mr Gary Kiernan, TUSLA

Mr Jim Walsh, Dept. of Health

Ms Diane Nurse, Health Service Executive

Mr Fergal Black, Irish Prison Service

Ms Ita Burke, Probation Service

((Alternate) Mr Brian Dack, Probation Service

Mr Michael Flahive, Dept. Justice & Equality

Mr Noel Dowling, Dept. Justice & Equality

Mr Keith Lynn, Dept. Justice & Equality (Secretary to the Group)

1. **The Garda Youth Diversion Projects Ad hoc Working Group**

The *Ad hoc* Working Group was set up to look at how training and support needs of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) should be met. It meets periodically and will be replaced by a permanent consultation mechanism later this year on completion of a consultation process with GYDPs in that regard. The Group comprises of representatives from the GYDP Independent Network, Foróige, Youth Work Ireland, Crosscare, Extern, University of Limerick and the Department.

**51.1 The Kerry Group.**

This group has been tasked with reviewing the future development of the Garda Youth Diversion Project in County Kerry. This group deals with a range of topics including local needs, community involvement at sub-county level, wrap around services and other issues that may arise. This group comprises of representatives from local Garda Youth Diversion Projects, An Garda Síochána, The Irish Youth Justice Service and other agencies as the need arises.

**51.2 The Limerick Divisional Group**

This group has been tasked with reviewing local needs in relation to Garda Youth Diversion Projects in Limerick Garda Division. This group deals with a range of topics including local needs, boundary realignment, wrap around services and other issues that may arise. This group comprises of representatives from local Garda Youth Diversion Projects, An Garda Síochána, The Irish Youth Justice Service and other agencies as the need arises.

1. **Youth Justice Strategy Steering Group**

Work has recently begun to develop a new Youth Justice Strategy that will align with the next iteration of *“Better Outcomes Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020*”, and any future policy framework which may be established post-2020.

The expert Steering Group is chaired by Minister Stanton and coordinated by the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS). This group will guide the development of the strategy and consists of representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Probation Service, Garda National Bureau for Child Diversion, Oberstown Children’s Detention Campus, Department of Education and Skills, Department of Health, University College Cork, University of Limerick, Solas, Children’s Rights Alliance

The Group may request participation of other relevant agencies or stakeholders in relation to particular issues as its work progresses and will link in with other forums with child protection and youth justice roles as appropriate.

It is intended that the Steering Group will conclude its work during 2020 and that the new Youth Justice strategy will be fully integrated into future policy frameworks for children and young adults.