**Status of each of the Recommendations the National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report, 2017**

**Dated 22 July 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lead** | **Recommendations** | **Status** |
| **Dept. of Health (pending pathfinder establishment).** | **1. Consultation and Advocacy**1.1 - Pathfinder should take a lead in formalising mechanisms to ensure that the voices of young people are fully considered in the development and implementation of legislation, policy and services for youth. The Pathfinder team should develop mandatory protocols which will work to safeguard young people against potential changes in policy that could negatively impact on youth mental health1.2 - Policies involving young people should be published in simple, straightforward language that young people can understand1.3 - A process of youth consultation should be carried out when designing mental health and other support services and facilities for young people1.4 - An independent National Youth Mental Health Advocacy and Information Service should be established. Consultation should be informed by children and young people and should include the HSE, which is developing a tender for a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) youth advocacy pilot. | Work has been advanced to establish a Youth Mental Health Pathfinder Team. There has been considerable communication and work performed in addressing outstanding governance, staffing and funding issues. Activities are not yet complete in fully developing and rolling out a Pathfinder unit, but work is on-going. At the end of May 2019, Minister Daly had a constructive meeting with Minister Donohoe and his officials. They are very supportive of the proposal, subject to resolving the outstanding matters. It is hoped that substantial progress on the matter will be made in the coming months. Policies involving young people are issued to the young people’s forum in DCYA for review prior to publication.Work has been completed to determine how best to establish a mental health youth advocacy service. A draft business plan has been submitted for review within the Department of Health and it is hoped to progress work on establishing a pilot service attached to an existing NGO in the coming months.  |
| **HSE** | **2. Awareness and Training**2.1 - A series of sustained and evidence based awareness campaigns should be developed, specifically targeted at children and young people, to improve mental health, emotional literacy, build resilience, and aid the development of coping mechanisms2.2 - Sustained, quality-assured and evidenced-based training programmes should be funded to provide support to individuals in the public, voluntary and community sectors who have contact with young people so that those trained might be in a better position to promote positive mental health | Overview of the HSE mental health communications campaigns working group established in 2019;The Little Things campaign was introduced by the HSE in October 2014 and since then it has performed well in promoting positive mental health and directing people to yourmentalhealth.ie and Samaritans’ freephone number 116 123. Since the campaign launched, there has been over 4.2million visits to yourmentalhealth.ieFollowing a campaign review in 2017, the key stakeholders within the HSE (i.e. HSE Communications, the National Office for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Operations) have discussed the future direction of mental health communications campaigns and agreed to bring Little Things to an end.Notwithstanding this decision, mental health remains an important health topic for the Irish population. Indeed, in late 2017, 26% of a sample of 3,432 Irish people selected ‘mental health’ as the health issue of most concern to them ranking it highest in a list of health issues including ‘cancer’ (selected by 17%) and ‘heart disease’ (7%). Public interest in mental health is further confirmed by traffic to yourmentalhealth.ie which continues to rise – the number of users accessing the site in Q2 of 2019 rose by 33% compared with the same period in 2018 to 224,700.The HSE Mental Health Communications Campaign Working Group tasked to develop a new strategy for HSE mental health communications will focus on the following;* Agree on the approach to formally closing the Little Things campaign (e.g. timing, internal/external communications channels).
* Review the key national policies which relate to mental health campaigns, including the forthcoming Vision for Change ‘refresh’.
* Agree on an interim approach to mental health communications until such time as a new plan is in place, e.g. to ensure on-going visibility and awareness of yourmentalhealth.ie and on-going social media engagement.
* Review available population-based research into mental health knowledge, understanding and attitudes.
* Work with colleagues from Mental Health Engagement in planning mental health communications and ensure this work takes account of the recovery ethos.
* Review available evidence in relation to mental health communication campaigns, including Little Things and evidence from campaigns internationally.
* Review and decide on operational and strategic need in relation to mental health communications campaigns.
* Develop and agree a new mental health campaigns strategy which will be communicated to key stakeholders in a targeted consultation process.

In the meantime, mental health campaigns for the general population are in maintenance mode for the rest of 2019 with on-going radio and social media advertising directing people to yourmentalhealth.ie. Further activity is focused on young people as a key target group in ‘Connecting for Life’. As such, the Mind Monsters awareness campaign for post-primary students launched in May with radio, digital, social and Google ad word campaigns and new content on youth topics was added to yourmentalhealth.ie. Communications about accessing materials were sent to all schools, youth clubs and GAA clubs across Ireland as well as to partner agencies and HSE staff working in health promotion.HSE/USI ReCharge Mental Health Campaign for 3rd Level Students:HSE Mental Health is also funding a new Mental Health awareness campaign with USI to target third level education students. The HSE funding has been used to create a new campaign logo and tagline, three new posters to address the effects that Alcohol, Sleep and Exams can have on mental health and ways to help manage any stress related to those issues. A new leaflet with more information on protective factors and ways to seek help will also be produced as well as content on both USI.ie and yourmentalhealth.ie. USI is the national representative body for 374,000 students in 3rd level education and also receive funding from the HSE to provide training courses in SafeTALK, ASISTMental Health First AidMental Health First Aid training for young people. HSE Mental Health funds Mental Health First Aid to deliver courses to various target groups. Participants learn the signs and symptoms of mental health problems and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective. The training has been shown to improve attitudes towards people with mental health difficulties, reduce stigma, improve knowledge, and improve people’s confidence in providing help and likelihood to advise people to seek professional help. In response to your enquiry, Mental Health First Aid Ireland is now in year 3 of our work with the mental health division, and this has been overseen by a joint HSE /MHFA Ireland steering group.MHFA Ireland and the accredited instructors have engaged with various target groups for the delivery of MHFA training, as requested by the joint MHFA Ireland / HSE steering group. E.G. Defence Forces, Veterans groups, Mental health Ireland, Homeless services, Sport Ireland, LQBTQ Community, Family Resources Centres, Disability sector, Community First Responders and the Traveller Community. 8 new instructors have been trained this year bringing the total group of HSE funded instructors to 20. These instructors have commenced delivery in partnership with their host organisations, Grow, Aisieri, and Peter McVerry Trust. Quality assurance inspection visits have continued with HSE funded instructors this year. This ensures the maintenance of standards and best practice in delivery of the programme and provides a support and on-going mentoring structure for all instructors.Under the project, 27 courses have been delivered with a total of 402 participants trained to date in 2019. A further 37 Courses are scheduled for the remaindered of the year and it is estimated that the total number participants trained as part of the project by years end will be 1,100.This has brought to the total number of people trained in Mental Health First Aid in Ireland since November 2015 to 5420.The 2019 funding is also supporting the roll out of 6 pilot courses in Youth MHFA (for adults supporting young people) and 8 Youth MHFA Instructors all being commenced in the latter half of 2019. These courses will be directed towards school staff, parent groups, youth and community groups. |
| **HSE in conjunction with NGO’s.** | **3. Online Youth Mental Health Supports**3.1 - The Taskforce recommends increased investment in age-appropriate, scalable digital youth mental health supports in conjunction with existing providers to ensure all young people ages 0-25 have access to an active listening service and dynamic signposting tool. | Developing Digital Mental Health Supports in IrelandDigital mental health supports have the potential to meet a significant proportion of mental health need in the population and as such, a wide range of digital supports are being developed with the aim of providing people with the support they need, when they need it. Online supports can also improve the accessibility of face to face services by providing more targeted signposting of the most appropriate supports. In terms of developments, a revised yourmentalhealth.ie was launched on October 10, 2018. In keeping with the HSE Digital Roadmap, the old site was brought back in to the main HSE website and the opportunity was taken to re-write existing content and source additional articles. A new search function which allows users to get personalised results was also introduced.Mental health content on hse.ie will continue to be developed in accordance with the comprehensive HSE content guide and it will be framed within a biopsychosocial model giving regard to social and environmental factors which influence mental health to ensure it is engaging users and signposting the full range of supports available.In addition to improved online content, the Digital Mental Health Supports Project will see the development of: a single point of telephone contact for mental health supports; a crisis text supports service; and, a range of online therapies. Details of these developments are set out below.Project Objectives:1. Develop new/develop upon existing online platforms to host engaging, quality mental health information and information on HSE mental health services to also include an integrated personalisable signposting tool.2. Establish a single dedicated point of telephone contact for HSE mental health services information and details of helplines and other non-HSE mental health supports in the community, in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service. Q4 2019.3. Develop and implement a synchronous text based (SMS/instant messaging (IM)/live chat) active listening service. Crisis Textline Ireland is due to start in Q4 2019.4. Explore the potential for utilization of online therapies across the State by achieving the following: Conduct an appraisal of evidence, map current offerings, draft recommendations for operation, and suggest referral pathways in relation to online therapies in the ROI, Pilot tele-counselling service through (i) direct GP referral, and (ii) Counselling in Primary Care (CiPC) waiting list alleviation mechanism, Pilot tele-psychiatry via (i) CHO5 Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services remote consultations, and (ii) national adolescent substance abuse and addiction services remote consultations, (iii) remote adult psychiatric consultations in CHO2, and (iv) remote psychiatric consultations for children with intellectual disabilities in CHO4.Part 1: Website & Signposting/Search Tool Delivery Date: Completed The new yourmentalhealth.ie website went live on October 10th 2018 providing new content and personalised support options through an integrated search tool generating information on online resources, telephone and face-to-face supports and services relevant to a wide range of mental health issues. Supports available via apps will be added to yourmentalhealth.ie in Q3 2019. A performance review of the site conducted by HSE Digital found that site views had increased, that users were finding required information faster, and that search engine optimisation had improved significantly.Work has commenced in relation to the redevelopment of the existing mental health services pages on www.hse.ie in line with the direction outlined in the HSE Digital Roadmap. It is currently envisaged a new site could launch in Q4 2019. This will be more corporate / less public content.Part 2: Telephone Contact Line Expected Delivery Date: 2019HSE Mental Health has sought to advance the operation of a single and stand-alone National Mental Health Service Telephone Contact Facility to effectively manage mental health service related queries emerging from the community. This service will operate on a 24/7 basis and will encompass (i) the provision of information about, and direction of callers to, the most appropriate national and local pathway(s) to care specific to the query raised, and (ii) where possible the direct transfer of callers to the most appropriate existing helpline partners and/or services as required.Training of call takers by the National Ambulance Service is now complete. All hardware required to commence has been procured. Clinical supervision arrangements have been established. A job description for two clinical nurse manager 1 posts to provide clinical support to the line has been written and authorisation has been sought to proceed to advertisement and filling of post. At present, a go live date within Q 4 2019 is envisioned. Part 3: Active Listening (Live Chat, Instant Messaging & SMS)*Expected Delivery Date: End Q4 2019 (Soft Launch), Q1 2020 (Full Launch)* HSE Mental Health, working in close collaboration with SpunOut.ie/Community Creations, has engaged with a US-based provider of instant text messaging support services, *Crisis Text Line*, with a view to establishing their 24/7 active listening text service in Ireland. The platform design and recruitment of all senior hires are now complete. A volunteer recruitment drive commenced in June 2019. The service will conduct a limited ‘soft launch’ in July 2019 in collaboration with BeLongTo and Pavee Point with a view to slowly increasing traffic to the platform towards full public launch in Q3 2019.Part 4: Online Therapies Start Date: Nov 2018*Telecounselling Pilots*The HSE, working in close collaboration Turn2Me.org, is currently undertaking two pilot projects exploring the potential to develop the use of online counselling. The clinical governance and data protection arrangements for this pilot study are being provided by Turn2me.org. All counselling sessions are conducted on a secure encrypted cloud based platform, and can be conducted via video, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone calls, or via synchronous (instant) text messaging. Pilot 1: GP Referral commenced in November 2018 with service users in the South Wicklow area offered the opportunity to avail of free online counselling at a location of their choice. Uptake has been low initially. In response to this, a GP recruitment event took place in collaboration with the Irish College of General Practitioners in May 2019. From this, 67 GP practices expressed interest in participating in a phase II of this pilot which will commence later in 2019 and run until end the end of the year.Pilot 2: CIPC Waiting List Alleviation commenced in February 2019 wherein service users in Galway/Mayo region (CHO2) currently on the waiting list for Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) services were contacted and offered the opportunity to avail of free online counselling to address mild to moderate mental health difficulties. This pilot was extended to the Cork/Kerry region (CHO4), however, resource issues have limited engagement.Telepsychiatry PilotsFour telepsychiatry pilots are now being undertaken in collaboration with Video Doc. These pilots encompass the conducting of remote psychiatric consultations to address the following: (1) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service waiting lists in Wexford/Waterford region (CHO 5).(2) Demand for specialist adolescent addiction and substance abuse service.(3) Adult mental health service demands within Galway/Mayo region (CHO 2).(4) Demand for services for child and adolescents with intellectual disabilities in Kerry/Cork region (CHO 4).This work formally commenced in February 2019 and will run until end of Q4 2019. The first pilot will be with MHID services in Cork. Delays had presented in relation to ICT resource allocation processes and infrastructure but have been resolved. The Video Doc platform has been amended to allow for consultations and upon delivery and installation of equipment, service delivery can commence.Online CBT HSE Mental Health is working in collaboration with SilverCloud Health to conduct a service evaluation in relation to the use of Online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Programmes among a sample of 200 adults across four CHO regions. Following engagement with Department of Health, derogation was received for Assistant Psychologists to act as the Supporter to service users for the duration of this pilot. All data protection and ICT requirement work has been completed. Principal Psychologist from across four CHOs have been recruited to oversee the pilot locally, and have received training in the use of the SilverCloud platform. Assistant Psychologists received the required training in June and it is envisaged this pilot will go live in July 2019. |
| **Tusla****National Maternity Working Group** | **4. Supporting Families to Promote Mental Health in Young People**4.1 - Families, guardians and carers should be supported in parenting children and young people through the provision of universal, quality-assured and evidence-based parenting information and support programmes.4.2 - Evidence-based information, interventions and signposting tools about mental health should be included into routine perinatal care services. | The HSEs Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services Model of Care was launched on 30.11.2017. This evidenced based Model of Care is based in acute/maternity hospitals with close links to the catchment mental health service in the community. Its aims include an integrated Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Pathway will all relevant service components, including the specialist perinatal mental health service, and their linkages. A National Oversight Implementation Group has been established with consultant representation from all 6 hub sites as well as nursing and midwifery staff and a lead obstetrician link for the service. A number of Training days took place in May 2019. Initially with Hub and Spoke staff including the liaison psychiatrist and MH nursing staff linked to spoke sites. Wider training took place at the end of May with over 90 frontline staff taking part in specific perinatal mental health training provided through an international expert in perinatal health. Included in the training also was current HSE service components such as addictions and pregnancy, Tusla services, infant mental health and bereavement services. This three day event was delivered to all staff currently working in specialist perinatal mental health services as well as representation from PHNs and Community Mental Health team nurses and midwives. This was very well received as evidenced through evaluation forms. Currently an educational app is being developed to further support staff working in Hubs and Spokes in perinatal mental health. It is hoped that a version of this will also be rolled out to the wider community services who encounter women with mental health problems in the perinatal period.Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Teams are being recruited for the maternity hospital/service hub in each of the six Hospital Groups. Since July 2019 all six consultant posts have been filled with three filled with a permanent consultant appointment just this month. Additional multidisciplinary team members are also being recruited though the current additional steps in the recruitment process is resulting in additional lead in times for some appointments.Additional training supports are being planned by DCYA and Tusla (further information on these initiatives have been requested and will be forwarded when received.  |
| **Dept. of Education & Skills**  | **5. Schools And Youth Mental Health**5.1 - The Department of Education and Skills should support teaching professionals in schools and centres for education with the knowledge and skills to understand their role in supporting young people with mental health issues and how to access information about services and supports available to them.5.2 - Principals and teachers should be supported to implement the wellbeing junior cycle curriculum. | The Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023 was launched by the Minister for Education and Skills in July 2018. The policy statement provides an overarching structure encompassing existing, ongoing and developing work in the area of wellbeing. It builds on the good work already happening in schools to ensure that best practice in whole-school wellbeing promotion is embedded across the system. The policy outlines a multicomponent, whole school preventative approach to the promotion of wellbeing with interventions at both universal and targeted levels. This policy requires that a Wellbeing Promotion Process is developed and implemented, through the use of the School Self-Evaluation (SSE) process, in all schools by 2023. The policy includes a set of Statements of Effective Practice in relation to wellbeing promotion within the school system. The statements will support schools in reviewing their current provision in four key areas of wellbeing promotion, culture, curriculum, policy and partnership and in setting goals for improvement. In order to support schools in the implementation of this Wellbeing Policy it is planned to develop and rollout a comprehensive programme of professional development, commencing in 2019. This will include facilitating the engagement of schools in the school self-evaluation for wellbeing promotion process, which will build professional capacity in schools. It also includes the provision of a comprehensive and easily-accessible set of resources to address school-identified wellbeing promotion needs. The roll out will be aligned with the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme and the Schools for Health Programme delivered through the HSE, HealthThe Department of Education and Skills has introduced a new Wellbeing programme for schools which forms part of the new Framework for Junior Cycle. It was introduced to first year students from September 2017. Guidelines on Wellbeing in Junior Cycle have been developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and are available at [www.juniorcycle.ie](http://www.juniorcycle.ie/). Schools will use the guidelines in formulating their individual Wellbeing programmes from September. There will be 400 hours of timetabled engagement for the Wellbeing area of learning over the 3 years of Junior Cycle. |
| **Higher Education Authority / Higher Education Institutions in partnership with Dept. of Education & Skills & AHEAD.** | **6. Mental Health Supports in Higher Education Institutions**6.1 - The current provision of counselling and mental health supports in higher level institutions should be maintained and enhanced6.2 - The Higher Education Authority and the Department of Education and Skills should develop appropriate indicators to assess student experience in higher education in the system performance framework for higher education6.3 - Prioritise the implementation of recommendations contained in “Mental Health Matters” | The HEA is continuing to work with Connecting for Life to implement mental health initiatives. Since the launch of the task force report, there have been changes in how counselling is being delivered. Vision for Change refresh advocates that counselling should be available to all who need it, when they need it. This revised action removes the sole responsibility on an individual Department to provide counselling and moves the focus to primary care services. Implementation of Mental Health Matters continues. |
| **Local Government in partnership with Sporting Bodies & Youth & Community Organisations.** | **7. Community Supports for Your Mental Health**7.1 - The Task Force recommends that local government work with relevant agencies, youth groups and community groups to provide safe, ‘youth friendly’ spaces, sporting and cultural facilities that are conducive to promoting good mental health. These should include the provision of pleasant spaces and facilities for young people to access qualified health and mental health care in the community.Evidence-based, quality-assured training in youth mental health should available to all individuals working with young people in the community | The provision of Youth Friendly Spaces in community settings is a high priority for local government. Working with youth groups and community groups, service providers have been asked to include youth friendly spaces so that mental health can be supported. The thrust of Government policy has been towards enhancing mental health support in the community since ‘A Vision For Change’ was adopted in 2006. This policy will be continued when the refreshed policy is published later this year. |
| **HSE** | **8. Accessibility and Alignment of Mental Health Services**8.1 - Pathfinder should carry out a detailed assessment of the services and supports currently available in relation to youth mental health, in order to identify gaps in service provision and to scope what improvements could be achieved through greater coordination8.2 - The HSE should improve provision of mental health supports to young people at the primary care level to reduce the pressure on the tertiary referral services and improve waiting times8.3 - The HSE should establish a National Lead for Youth Mental Health and a Lead for Youth Mental Health in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) to co-ordinate the provision of services and address gaps in service provision, including out of hours services. The CHO Leads will liaise with relevant agencies to develop appropriate communication protocols, standardised assessment processes and coordination of service provision. This joint working will bring together expert stakeholders to identify and address potential blocks to service provision and seek to reduce current wait times nationally with the introduction of other more appropriate interventions in primary care. | See 1.1 re Pathfinder Interventions to support young people in distress and those with mental health problems have been developed at a number of different levels within the system.Universal servicesWe now know from the evidence base that a number of young people wish to avail of information and support around mental health through online channels. HSE Mental health services have recently invested resources into a digital mental health service improvement project. This project is now progressing enhanced online mental health services with engaging online content, signposting of supports and services and an active listening service based on the provision of text support. This new digital resource will meet significant public mental health need by responding to changing help-seeking behaviours and opening up awareness of the fullest possible range of supports for people experiencing mental health difficultiesPrimary Care levelThe HSE fund Jigsaw to provide early intervention mental health services which focus on the needs of 12-25 year olds. Their early intervention model provides tangible supports for young people at primary care level who have mild and emerging mental health difficulties. There are 13 Jigsaw Services in communities across Ireland providing mental health support to young people. Work is underway to develop two new Jigsaw services in the Wicklow and Tipperary areas by Q1 2020.In addition the Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) service is available to young adults. This is a national service provided under the governance framework of the National Counselling Service (NCS) of the HSE. Short term counselling is provided for adults with mild/ moderate psychological problems aged 18 and over and who hold a valid medical card. Referral into the service is by the person’s GP or other member of the Primary Care Team. Another initiative aimed at improving early intervention for young people with emerging and mild mental health difficulties is that of enhancing primary care psychology services through the employment of assistant psychologists. In 2018, 114 new Assistant Psychologists and 20 psychologists were recruited to assist Primary Care Teams in their provision of psychological intervention for young people. These posts are designed to ensure that young people whose clinical needs are at primary care level receive appropriate intervention and do not end up on secondary care waiting lists due to lack of appropriate assessment and resources in primary care.Assistant PsychologistsAnother initiative aimed at improving early intervention for young people with emerging and mild mental health difficulties is that of enhancing primary care psychology services through the employment of 114 Assistant Psychologists in 2018who provide psychological intervention for young people ensuring that young people whose clinical needs are at primary care level receive appropriate intervention and do not end up on secondary care waiting lists due to lack of appropriate assessment and resources in primary care.HSE Primary Care – eWell computerised CBT Therapy HSE Primary Care has developed a computerised cognitive behaviours therapy (cCBT) called eWell for young People 12-18 Years. The eWell intervention is a 6-session cCBT programme for young people presenting to Health Service Executive (HSE) Primary-Care with mild to moderate depression and/or anxiety. Designed by the HSE, working in collaboration with the Mental Health Reform (MHR) & HSE Service Users for the past 4 years and more recently Reachout Ireland. The aspiration is that this program will empower service-users to develop a Mental Health skill-set, whereby users acquire skills that will increase self-awareness, coping strategies and psychological resilience. PRIMERA PRIMERA (**P**romoting **R**esearch and **I**nnovation in **M**ental h**E**alth se**R**vices for f**A**milies) programme of research, funded by the HSE, is investigating how best we can deliver mental health services and interventions to families where a parent has a diagnosed mental illness. Recent years have seen growing recognition of the importance of parental mental health and the need for more integrated and effective service responses to parents with mental illness and their children (Wilson et al., 2010; HSE, 2015). This research aims to:To identify mental health services in Ireland that currently deliver, or are interested in developing and delivering family-focused intervention(s) for families where a parent has a diagnosed mental health problem (and their children aged 0-18years). To subsequently investigate in more detail the implementation and effectiveness of selected interventions in order to inform a ‘think family’ care delivery agenda in Ireland (and internationally).Education & Training There has been an increasing focus from the HSE on increasing the capacity of GPs to provide mental health care, including e-learning modules through the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP), the Primary Care Resource Pack and a course provided by Dublin City University (in partnership with the ICGP and the HSE). The HSE in partnership with ICGP has funded a Mental Health Project role which has developed a range of materials and training programmes to support GPs and General Practice in particular. Mental Health Promotion:A number of interdepartmental co-operations promoting mental health include;Youth Mental Health & PathfindersNational Office for Suicide Prevention – Connecting for LifeEmployment of SCAN nurses as a joint initiative between Primary Care and Mental Health. This is a collaborative initiative between primary care and mental health division - SCAN service provides nursing support to General Practitioners (GP) in caring for any of their patients who come to them in difficult circumstances with thoughts of suicide. Access to the service is via GP referral using a single mobile phone number which gives GPs direct access to the SCAN allowing for speedy referral and an immediate discussion of the case.6 Mental Health promotion Officers assigned to the HSE Health Promotion and Improvement, 1 Mental health Promotion Officers funded through an external agency100 other health promotion and improvement staff that engage in mental health promotion work through a variety of contexts, including training programmes.A key initiative that will inform the further advancement of the work of the group is the Youth Mental Health Pathfinder Project, and it is important that the Working Group align with this initiative. Centralising the work in this way will provide a clear overview of existing provision and proposed plans from across the relevant departments and agencies so as to identify gaps in provision, areas of alignment and areas for further development. Part of the recommendation refers to recruitment of HSE leads. At a meeting with HSE, Task Force representatives and NGO sector late 2018 it was agreed to wait for the establishment of Pathfinder team to work on specific job specifications for the recommended posts. See 1.1. |
| **Dept. of Justice** **Dept. of Health** | **9. Consent Issues**9.1 - Legislation should be published to give effect to the recommendations of the Expert Group on the Review of the Mental Health Act, 2001 with regard to children, including reforming the consent provisions, to allow young people under 18 direct access to mental health services | There are on-going discussions and legislative work in the Department of Health regarding amending the legislation to allow children under 16 access mental health services without the need to have parental consent. Draft Heads of Bill were sent to the Mental Health Commission for their input on 02/07/19. It is expected that the Commission will need approximately six months to review the heads. |
| **Dept. of Health****HRB** | **10. Improving Knowledge through Research**10.1 - A funded strategic national research programme on youth mental health will be developed10.2 - International sources of funding (for example from European Union or philanthropic organisations) should be leveraged to enhance this research strategy on youth mental health research | There have been discussions with the HRB on how best to approach these recommendations. There will be a need for new additional funding and this will need to be tied in the with the creation of the Pathfinder Team who will have responsibility to create structures for administering grants and creating criteria for issuing research funding. PRIMERA (Promoting Research and Innovation in Mental health services for families) programme of research, funded by the HSE, is investigating how best to deliver mental health services and interventions to families where a parent has a diagnosed mental illness. Recent years have seen growing recognition of the importance of parental mental health and the need for more integrated and effective service responses to parents with mental illness and their children (Wilson et al., 2010; HSE, 2015). This research aims to:1. To identify mental health services in Ireland that currently deliver, or are interested in developing and delivering family-focused intervention(s) for families where a parent has a diagnosed mental health problem (and their children aged 0-18years). 2. To subsequently investigate in more detail the implementation and effectiveness of selected interventions in order to inform a ‘think family’ care delivery agenda in Ireland (and internationally). |