

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

PROJECT TEAM

THURSDAY 24th AUGUST 2006, 2.30 PM – 4.00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM C3.18, CASTLE BUILDINGS

ATTENDEES:

Dr N Chada (Chairperson)

Dr M Donaldson

Mr W Francey

Mrs E O'Doherty

Dr B Smyth

Dr R Smithson

Mrs A McLernon

Mr D Martin

Mr N McMahan

Dr C Harper

Mrs J Todorov (Secretariat)

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

Dr Chada welcomed all members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Dr E Mitchell, Mr A Elliott, Dr B Gaffney, Dr J Little, Dr A M Telford, Mrs P Osborne and Mrs S Tallentire.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 1ST JUNE 2006

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed without amendment.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 1ST JUNE 2006

It was noted that all the matters arising would be picked up by the RPA update paper

4. RPA UPDATE

Damien Martin spoke to the tabled paper which provided an update on events since the last meeting of the Project Team in June.

- **Consideration of Report by the Programme Board**

Members were advised that the revisions, as agreed at the last meeting of the Project Team, had been made to the draft report and that the revised report had been submitted to the Programme Board on 27th June 2006. It was, however, noted that the Programme Board had been unable to consider the report before its meeting concluded. The Board was now due to consider the Public Health Functions Report on 1 September 2006.

Mr Martin advised that it was envisaged that a small number of implementation groups would be set up by the Programme Board to take forward the implementation of the changes proposed by the Project Teams. It was thought that, at least initially, these implementation groups would be supported by some of the existing RPA Project Teams.

- **Legislative Implications**

It was noted that a small number of additional pieces of legislation, which could potentially be affected by the RPA changes, had been identified by Project Team members and Directors of Public Health. Details of such legislation have been forwarded to the Legislation Team. A meeting has also been requested with the Legislation Team to quality assure final proposals.

- **Liaison with Other Project Teams**

Project Team members were advised that Mr Andrew Elliott had requested a meeting with Mr Noel McCann (Director of the Performance Management Project Team) to discuss the proposals relating to Public Health in the performance management framework. Discussion followed in relation to previous work on performance management and work already being taken forward in other places such as Scotland. Project Team members were asked to notify Damien Martin of any examples of effective practice in performance managing public health outcomes and/or services.

ACTION POINT: PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Chada reported that he had attended a video conference with Peter Farley from the Welsh Assembly Government, to discuss experiences implementing Public Health reforms in Wales. Damien Martin undertook to produce a bullet point summary of this meeting.

ACTION POINT: DAMIEN MARTIN

Mr Damien Martin advised members that he had attended the final meeting of the Community Planning sub-group of the Local Government Taskforce, which had now made its recommendations on community planning in Northern Ireland. He suggested that consideration would need to be given to the level of involvement that would be required to ensure effective connections with the Investing for Health agenda.

Mr Nigel McMahon reported that the first of what will be annual meetings had taken place between the Department and the Health Protection Agency. Mr McMahon advised that the proposal to create a Health Protection Service for Northern Ireland, which would include an enhanced presence for the Health Protection Agency in a support role and to provide a 'gateway' to national resources, was well received and seemed to fit well with the HPA's current thinking on the provision of regional services through local Health Protection Units (HPUs). The Health Protection Agency has agreed to forward further information on HPUs.

`ACTION POINT: NIGEL MCMAHON

5. DECISIONS PAPER

Damien Martin introduced paper 22/06 which set out the proposals of the Public Health Functions Project Team in the form of a decisions paper for consideration by the Programme Board. In addition to summarizing the recommendations from the Public Health Functions Project Team it identified whether these had already been incorporated into the roles and responsibilities paper being developed by the Programme Board. It also suggested who should be responsible for implementing the (agreed) recommendations and identified the next steps in moving towards implementation.

Following discussion, a small number of amendments were highlighted for discussion with Dr Mitchell. It was noted that a revised contribution to the decisions paper would issue on 26 August 2006, for consideration by the Programme Board on 1st September 2006.

ACTION POINT: DAMIEN MARTIN

6. CORRESPONDANCE

It was noted that a meeting would be taking place in the near future with the BMA to discuss the proposals of the Project Team.

Damien Martin advised that Dr Mitchell had written to Professor Alun Evans suggesting that a meeting in relation to the cancer registry should take place after the initial options appraisal by the Information Sub-Group has been completed.

It was also noted that correspondence had been received from the Health & Social Services Council (HSSC) seeking involvement in a number of the RPA Project Teams, including the Public Health team. Members were advised that this would be considered in light of decisions on future structures for RPA implementation.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Elaine O' Doherty advised that Investing for Health (IfH) Managers were interested in having an opportunity to inform thinking on future arrangements for IfH. It was agreed that the issue of communicating with and involving stakeholders could be considered at the next meeting, by which time future structures for RPA implementation were likely to be a little clearer.

Project Team members emphasised the importance of making the Public Health Functions Report available to the wider HPSS, following its consideration by the Programme Board.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the end of September/Early October.

ACTION POINT: SECRETARIAT TO TRAWL FOR DATE