

**Mental Health Strategy 2021-31**  
**Cross-Departmental Working Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**January 2022**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Cross-Departmental Working Group is to identify opportunities for greater cross-government and cross-sectoral working to inform the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021-31.

**Scope and Aims**

2. The main aim of the Working Group is to contribute to the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021-31 to improve the mental health of people across Northern Ireland.
3. As the new workstreams of the Mental Health Strategy are developed, Working Group members will:
  - Represent the views of their respective Departments in relation to specific workstreams;
  - Identify existing areas of collaboration and joined-up working;
  - Identify potential areas where greater collaboration could be encouraged so that services are joined up at local level and to ensure that individuals and communities receive the seamless integrated support they need;
  - Establish linkages within their own Departments and agencies to support the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy; and
  - Going forward, act as the departmental point of contact for reporting and monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategy once processes are established.
4. DoH will keep the Working Group updated on feedback received from service users, stakeholders and delivery organisations as the Strategy is

implemented. It will also keep the Working Group updated on the phasing and prioritisation of the workstreams.

## **Membership**

5. The Working Group will consist of one representative from each Government Department. It will be chaired by Peter Toogood, Director of Mental Health in DoH.
6. Secretariat support will be provided by the Mental Health Strategy Delivery Unit in DoH.

## **Frequency of Meetings**

7. The Working Group will meet three times per year. It may be necessary to meet more frequently or to convene ad-hoc meetings where particular issues arise which require the Group's input.

## **Governance**

8. The SRO for the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy is Seán Holland, Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group.
9. The Working Group will be supported by and link with the Mental Health Strategic Reform Board, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy 2021-31.
10. The Mental Health Strategy Delivery Unit DoH will take forward the practical work needed to implement the Mental Health Strategy and will be supported by the Strategic Advisory Panel. The MHSDU will also report to the Mental Health Strategic Reform Board.