

***Amended following meeting of 17.2.21. Update to attendance list to record apologies for RP and 'appropriate data sharing' at (d) RC 18.2.21**

**EXECUTIVE COVID TASKFORCE
STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT BOARD**

AGENDA

3 FEBRUARY 2021

Via Zoom

Attending: Jenny Pyper (Chair), Mike Brennan, Tracy Meharg, Peter May, Peter Toogood, Karen Pearson, Chris McNabb,

Name Redacted

NR

Apologies

- Richard Pengelly

Agenda Item 2 – Five Minute Update

a) TEO – Karen Pearson

- Karen highlighted TEO's ongoing work on the Pathway to Recovery, noting first draft available for FM/dFM mid-February.
- Key issues to be considered include: giving business enough time to plan; Individual freedoms/ rights of the individual/ human rights must be factored into decision making process; Important that Ministers understand what decisions have been made – clear statement for Ministers to agree up front.
- Balance of health, economic and societal evidence should be included in decision making process.
- TEO also participating in adherence workstream and leading Task and Finish group on International Travel isolation.

b) Protect – Richard Pengelly

- Richard was detained at a separate meeting and was unable to join.

c) Recovery – Mike Brennan / Tracy Meharg

- DfE minister aiming to publish economic recovery strategy in next two weeks with a focus on next 18 months and pointing to longer term ambition.
- DfE and DfC officials will ensure that any documents produced are consistent.
- Need clarity on budget allocation - a critical factor in order to deliver recovery in 2021/22.
- Chancellor's statement on 22 February may clarify the position in relation to potential funding as a result of Barnett consequential.
- DfE's recovery paper focuses on labour market interventions/innovations.
- DfC – housing investment has the potential to be a labour market intervention but DfC bids for funding have not been met.
- DE needs to be factored in in terms of children's learning recovery and mental health.
- Members felt there would be benefit in a central coordination role for TEO to ensure recovery is balanced between health, economic and societal factors and to incorporate input from other departments such as DE, DfI etc. It was agreed that additional resources with the right skillset would be needed to do this. Discussion around external help from Ernst and Young/others within provisions of existing contracts.

[ACTION: TEO to engage with DfE and DfC re sourcing additional help]

- Executive away-day on prioritisation (date tbc) – agreed to develop a paper on high level priorities to inform this discussion.
- Proposal to seek Executive buy-in to high level policies/targets in the first instance and overlay with funding to support these later.
- Funding should be 'second order' once Exec priorities have been set.

d) Adherence – Peter May

- Key issue is appropriate data sharing within statutory limitations to obtain more granular info from DOH/PHA to determine clusters etc. to target interventions.

- Behavioural science – work continues using iLab, including examination of indoor gatherings etc.
- External behavioural science expert procurement completed this week and lead candidate identified.
- Work ongoing in relation to messaging – most people are adhering but likely to lose momentum in weeks ahead.
- Self-isolation/community champions work also in train.
- Young people focus group and work within council areas with high infection rates.
- Update on learning from managing the Ebola crisis and lessons learned from this. Similarities with COIVD and possibility of ‘spikey tail’ for up to 12 months after peak.

e) Strategic Communications – Name Redacted

- NR and Jenny have identified a potential candidate.
- Jenny to discuss with FM dFM this week.

Monthly Executive Paper on ECT progress - objectives

- Aiming to provide first progress report to the Executive w/c 8 Feb.
- Need ground-setting piece in terms of timeframe etc.
- Noted paper of two weeks ago has provoked no reaction.
- TEO to seek contributions for the paper along the lines discussed above and to further consider the content of the paper.

Date of the next meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for 17 February 2021.