

Building Forward: Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan:

Inaugural meeting of the Covid Recovery Taskforce

29 September 2021

Attendees

Name	Department
Brian Doherty	DAERA
Julie Harrison	DoJ
Tomas Adell	DoH
Peter Jakobsen	DoH
Declan McGeown	DfI
Patricia McIntyre	DfC
Michelle Scott	DfE
NR	DfE
John Smith	DE
Jayne Brady	HOCS
Karen Pearson	TEO (Covid Recovery)
Peter Luney	TEO (Covid Recovery)
NR	TEO (Covid Recovery)
NR	TEO (Covid Recovery)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Apologies:

Beverley Wall (DfC); Joanne McBurney (DoF); Sian Kerr (DfI); Paul Grocott (DfE) and Denis McMahon.

HOCS opened the meeting by highlighting the importance of the cross cutting nature of the work and using the Recovery Plan to develop the future PfG. She has offered the Group her full commitment and support.

Karen Pearson identified aims for this meeting as:

- To consider ambitions.
- Themes to be taken forward.
- The role of the group in promotion of and driving implementation of the Plan.
- The link with OBA and the future PfG.

2. Opening Remarks By Attendees

Julie Harrison-

- A real opportunity to mobilise a package of interventions that all members of the Group will have an interest in.

- In the absence of a crystalised PfG this represents an opportunity to identify 3-4 themes all departments will have an interest in and that would have positive impact on society.
- The Group could think about what actions sit logically together, to form what could be a coherent 'chunk' of work around which the Group can coalesce. Ideally, it would be possible to site each of those 'chunks' into one of the 'recovery accelerators'.
- It would be beneficial to have Covid Recovery identified as a Funding Pillar in the budget discussions.

Peter Luney-

- We need to consider how we promote the Plan and how we structure the Terms of Reference to reflect promotion and delivering the 'chunks' or themes.
- Peter has engaged with DoF representative on budget issues. Health and PfG have been noted by Minister Murphy in his paper to the Executive. This Plan will become part of PfG so could we consider funding on that basis?

Michelle Scott-

- Reporting and monitoring shouldn't be the focus of this group.
- ERAP in place and being reported on.
- Use this as an opportunity to deliver something extra over and above individual plans.
- Childcare is an obvious gap that is hugely cross cutting and could be very successful. Suggested a Task and Finish Group linked to this group to take this forward.
- Warned against being too ambitious. Should focus on Bitesize pieces that we can deliver on.

Declan McGeown-

- An opportunity as we are entering a transitional period to demonstrate how we can show that joined up working is successful, set agenda for next year and sow seeds now for bigger items.
- Keep focus at strategic level.

Patricia McIntyre-

- This group should be about joined up collaborative working to keep traction. There is an earnest approach here to make good progress and deliver, risk of losing that if the group is about updating and reporting on interventions.

Peter Jacobsen-

- Suggested choose a few cross-cutting measures requiring collaborative working to tackle issues such as health inequalities and deprivation in society.

3. Terms of Reference

- **Action 1 - Members to forward views on ToR to facilitate update of the document. Terms of Reference to be updated to present a Recovery Taskforce to deliver meaningful change (Covid Recovery Team).**
- **Action 2- To seek members' views:**
 - **On interventions within the consolidated recovery plan where there are linkages or overlaps which would benefit from collaborative working to deliver more impactful outcomes for citizens.**
 - **Based on the above, to suggest groupings of interventions that could become a focus for driving forward the work of the Taskforce and derive benefits for recovery.**

Responses due Wednesday 6 October.

- A timetable for future meetings will be agreed at a later date when the focus of the meetings is more defined. Meetings may need to be more regular in the initial stages.
- Peter agreed that TEO would work with members to arrange suitable dates and times.
- Name agreed as Covid Recovery Taskforce.

4. How the Group can drive delivery?

- Discussion was invited on the possibility of appointing Accelerator Champions. General consensus is that this was not the best approach at this time.
- Suggestion put forward to that future meetings should have a deep dive on the accelerators to allow Departments to consider where they fit in, identify constraints and opportunities.

5. Reporting Arrangements

- Priority Interventions have been identified as those that can make a positive impact before the end of the mandate.
- Reporting arrangements will be considered at future meetings once an agreed direction has been reached.
- Need to consider the benefits of each intervention and the high level benefits from the delivery of each programme.
- Discussion took place around OBA reporting and whether it can or should be applied to the Recovery Plan. Karen highlighted that the Recovery Plan will eventually become part of future PfG. We will need to have some sort of monitoring as the future PfG will start to build whilst we are still in this 24 month process, therefore the next 6 months are important.

- Need to keep a focus on the 4 Recovery Accelerators in terms of budget priorities. Once linkages are identified we can have a conversations on impact.
- Peter noted that a formal update has been promised to the Executive before the end of the calendar year.

NR

- When can or should we start to consider delivering something which will present an for collaborative working such as a Child Care Scheme?

It was identified that Child Care is not a specific action within the Recovery Plan but reference is made that it should be addressed. It an obvious gap and there is a possibility that DfE may be able to provide funding to support delivery of something in collaboration with DE, if there was a proposal that had Group support.

It was agreed that this could be an early win and should be on our short-list.

There was discussion round the fact that there are also individual interventions which may be considered as pre-made collaboration opportunities and which fit with the original tests of sectors, citizens or communities most impacted by COVID, suggestions identified were Vulnerable Young People, Health Inequalities and Locality Working.

Action 3: Michelle Scott to speak with Paul Brush DE to discuss.

6. Risk Register

- Julie Harrison will forward feedback in relation to Risk 2 as it was noted that this may not capture what we are trying to achieve.
- Risk 5 may not be something that this Programme can control.
- Risk 4- Funding risk of Amber is underplaying the current level of financial risk and likelihood to be raised to red until outcome of Spending Review is known.
- **Action 4- Update the Risk Register for 2,4 and 5 – JH to forward comments on no.2.**

7. Stakeholder Engagement

Peter noted that stakeholder engagement will be reviewed to include the active engagement with Stakeholders at present it represents information sharing and the active engagement is not captured.

- **Action 5- Review and Update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to reflect engagement.**

8. Equality Considerations

Brief update provided on Equality Screening and engagement with Equality Commission and CAJ. The document will be reviewed and updated throughout the process.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- **Action 6- Meeting to be arranged in 2 weeks' time.**

Action Points

Number	Action	Responsibility
1	Members to forward views on ToR to facilitate update of the document. Terms of Reference to be updated (to present a Recovery Taskforce to deliver meaningful change)	All members TEO Covid Recovery Team
2	To seek members' views: On interventions within the consolidated recovery plan where there are linkages or overlaps which would benefit from collaborative working to deliver more impactful outcomes for citizens. Based on the above, to suggest groupings of interventions that could become a focus for driving forward the work of the Taskforce and derive benefits for recovery.	All members- to be returned to the Covid Recovery Team by Wednesday 6 October 2021. CovidRecovery@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk
3	Michelle Scott to speak with Paul Brush DE to discuss childcare proposal	Michelle Scott
4	Update the Risk Register for 2,4 and 5 JH to forward comments on no.2.	TEO Covid Recovery Team Julie Harrison
5	Review and Update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to reflect engagement.	TEO Covid Recovery Team
6	Meeting to be arranged in 2 weeks' time.	TEO Covid Recovery Team

