



ADVICE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Network

12 March 2020

BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Network (MHN) Co-Leads, Mr Rod Astbury and Dr Helen McGowan, attended the 13 February 2020 Mental Health Advisory Council (Council) meeting, to discuss how the MHN and the Council can complement each other.

Council discussed the role of the Mental Health Network (MHN) and how it could act as a facilitator for service integration and help to dissolve silos.

Council also discussed the differences in the focus of MHN and Council, noting:

- The MHN is focused around services (design, best practice and experiences of people);
- Council is focused on what a person's experience is, and is proactive in going into the community and talking first hand with people with lived experience to hear about their experiences; and
- Council is also engaged at a strategic level, while the MHN is more involved in design work and practice of services.

ADVICE

Given the above, Council resolved that:

- There will be open communication with the MHN Co-leads to ensure advice to the Commissioner is consistent wherever possible, unless there are clear reasons for points of difference;
- Council will work with the MHN Co-Leads to promote service integration and the need for consumers and families to be at the centre of service integration; and
- Council is committed to working in close collaboration with the MHN, through the Co-Leads, to provide the best advice to the Commissioner.

Sincerely

Margaret Doherty
CHAIR

12 March 2020