



Update – November 2020

Interim Report

As promised, the review plans to publish a second interim report at the end of December. This report will document the work of all five Advisory Groups and highlight how this work ties into the overall objectives of the review.

The report will also provide a timeline for the remainder of the review, highlighting how current work will be progressed and new workstreams which will be introduced to achieve what the review set out to do. The report will also include an updated communication and engagement strategy, given that we are now in a better position to understand how we can engage effectively with our stakeholders.

Response to COVID-19

At the outset of the pandemic we, perhaps naively, expected to continue our face to face consultation after a few months when we thought the pandemic might be behind us. This obviously wasn't to be the case and we now find ourselves in the same position with regards to the limitations on engagement. The review has also been limited in its access to suitable technology as a platform for engaging with large groups. The new communication and engagement strategy will provide a framework for engaging with a broad range of stakeholders to meet varying needs, acknowledging the fact that face to face engagement will not be possible for the foreseeable future.

New member of the Secretariat

At the outset of the pandemic the Secretariat was reduced to 3 members due to a change in business priorities. This left us with a gap in support for the growing number of workstreams, which has now been filled by Sandra McDonald. Sandra has a range of experience relating to Mental Health Law; including holding the role of Public Guardian for 14 years

and supporting the adults with incapacity reform team. Sandra's primary role will be to support the Capacity and Supported Decision Making workstream, drawing on her experience providing independent mental capacity/incapacity advice and training as Director of her own company.