

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW REPORTS UPDATE

Background

The Commission on Widening Access (CoWA) Report “A Blueprint for Fairness” made 34 recommendations. Breaking the recommendations down further there are around 58 recommendations and sub-recommendations.

At the first meeting of the Access Delivery Group (ADG) on 22 August members agreed a Lead Delivery Partner for all but three of the recommendations (4, 17 and 18). Subsequent to discussion with the SFC in October these were also allocated. Recommendation 4 will be led by the SFC, 17a and b will be led by SG officials, 17c and d will be led by Peter MacLeod and 18 will also be led by SG officials.

It is the expectation of Scottish Ministers that the majority of the recommendations will require collaboration between stakeholders to ensure successful delivery of implementation. However, it will be the role and responsibility of the Lead Delivery Partner for each recommendation to be the project manager for that recommendation, and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of it, in partnership with the relevant stakeholders. Lead Delivery Partners will also be responsible for reporting on implementation to Scottish Ministers via the ADG.

In order to support that we propose establishing a sub group, which will report to the ADG and will, in the first instance, drive forward at pace the work required to refine the baseline information captured through the Recommendation Implementation Overview Report (RIOR) templates, which were issued in September for each recommendation and sub-recommendation.

Why is this necessary?

A first round of information has effectively been gathered via the RIOR templates, as indicated. However in general terms this requires both further development and refinement. This will be an iterative process and it will enable both milestones and the definitions of success in particular to be crystallised. This material will form the baseline for the project management of the programme of implementation going forward and it is vital that we get this right at this stage in order to move forward effectively and efficiently.

Once this has been further refined and developed by the sub-group we can then bring that information back to the ADG including “what success will look like” for each recommendation and sub-recommendation, and begin the discussion which will take us to the point at which the ADG can then agree this, or otherwise, for each recommendation. Establishing a shared vision for success across all stakeholders is central to moving forward successfully with implementation.

This will also enable the construction of a detailed timeline for implementation, based on the 5 key milestones identified for each of the recommendations. This is important in constructing a shared vision for what we are aiming to do, how we will do it, and when it will be done by.

KPI's

In parallel, work is underway to begin the process of developing KPI's for the overall programme of work. The first step to this is the grouping of the recommendations under improvement themes. As with what success will look like for the recommendations and the milestones, the development of KIP's will be an iterative process and one which will be undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders. Initial work to take the recommendations forward from themed groups toward KPI's can also be accelerated by the sub-group between meetings of the ADG.

Sub-group

It is anticipated the sub-group will comprise members of the ADG or representative officers of Lead Delivery Partners. Each sub-group member will lead the development of their RIOR templates, and will liaise with relevant stakeholders for each of their recommendations as necessary. The sub-group will be led by SG officials.

Next steps

SG will confirm with Lead Delivery Partners who they would like to cover their recommendations on the sub-group. A first meeting of the sub-group will be scheduled in early December.