

Health Reform Alliance

Terms of Reference

June 2016

What is the Health Reform Alliance?

The Health Reform Alliance (HRA) believes that Ireland's health and social care systems need strategic reform. Collectively, the alliance brings voices from across the health, social care, charity and academic sectors together to call for Government reform of Ireland's health and social care systems.

The HRA is committed to universal access to health and social care and the values of equality and equity in the provision and funding of services. The HRA has a particular interest in the impact of health and social care reform on people with chronic conditions, people with disabilities, people on low income, people experiencing mental health difficulties and older people.

The HRA acknowledges the expertise and remit of groups concerned with particular areas of health and social care. The HRA is a partnership of organisations dedicated to health and social care reform. We believe that our voices will be better heard by working together in a constructive and positive fashion.

Thus, the purpose of the HRA is to consider how the health and social care systems could be reformed in an equitable way to promote health and wellbeing for the whole population and to ensure that care is available to all, based upon identified needs and not on financial means.

Overall Aim of the Health Reform Alliance:

To agree the values, which should underpin health and social care reform in Ireland. The HRA will advocate for the health and social care systems, services and policies that best deliver these values.

The HRA will achieve this aim by:

- Sharing information, intelligence and members' thinking on health and social care reform
- Discussing common positions on principles and ethical values to underpin health and social care services and systems reform
- Proposing a set of principles and ethical values which could guide health and social care policy and service reform

- Identifying best practice strategies for progressing health and social care reform based on these principles and ethical values
- Promoting these principles and values amongst the public, policymakers and media.

The Health Reform Alliance will operate in a form of collaboration:

- Where opportunities arise to engage with health and social care reform processes, the HRA may choose to work together, or to operate from their individual organisations.
- Collaboration between the HRA will in no way preclude individual member organisations from taking their own positions, or operating independently.
- Where documents are produced by the HRA, the members supporting the document will be clearly listed.

The Health Reform Alliance and representation:

- Will not speak on behalf of individual organisations, unless there is a specific agreement in place to do so on a particular issue.
- When a member organisation decides not to participate in a particular activity of the HRA, the HRA must clearly state which member organisations it is representing.

Overarching Mission Statement:

In all that we do, the Health Reform Alliance remains committed to helping policy makers and others move toward an improved health and social care system that can deliver affordable, quality care for all.

Membership:

Currently, the members of the Alliance comprises representative from the following organisations: Adelaide Health Foundation; Age Action; Asthma Society of Ireland; Irish Cancer Society; Irish Heart Foundation; Samaritans.

Membership of the HRA is open to:

- Public Health Campaigners
- Organisations and Academic Institutions
- Medical Professionals
- NGOs and Charities

Provided they want to seek and work towards a health and social care system that is:

- Equitable
- Focused on the needs of people; and
- Financially sustainable for the state and for people.

- Who want to find an answer to the question of how we can provide universal health and social care for all people.

And who are willing to commit to the following:

- The advancement of universal care for all in Ireland.
- Willing to work in constructive partnership with other organisations to achieve this goal.
- Willing to promote the work of the Health Reform Alliance through their own core activities up to and including in the media and political briefings.
- Willing to actively support and engage with The Health Reform Alliance when called upon to do so.

To apply for membership of the Health Reform Alliance please email us confirming your interest in joining the Health Reform Alliance, providing us with a short summary or overview of your work or interest in health reform and stating your agreement with the criteria for membership as set out above. If the Executive of the Health Reform alliance accepts your membership the applicant will be required to sign a declaration stating that they hold no position with any organisation or group that conflicts with the aims and values of the alliance. The executive of the Health Reform Alliance reserves the right to decline and revoke membership if it feels you do not comply with the above criteria at any given time.

To apply for membership of the Health Reform Alliance email: info@healthreformalliance.ie

Executive

The HRA Executive is the volunteer management body of the Alliance selected by the Member Organisations of HRA.

The executive of the HRA currently consists of its six founding members.

Membership of the executive is for a maximum of two years with an option to step down after one year.

Role of Executive

- The Executive is responsible for management of the HRA including developing an annual workplan, managing the finances of the alliance and communicating with the wider membership of the Alliance.
- The Executive meets on a quarterly basis but may meet more regularly if required.

- From time to time specific tasks or projects will require the formation of a Working Group. A Working Group will comprise a sub-set of members of the HRA. The lifespan of any Working Group will continue until the assigned task is accomplished to the satisfaction of the members.
- The Executive will provide a progress report to the wider membership of the HRA on a biannual basis.

Decision making process

- Each executive member organisation has one decision making vote.
- Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. Where this is not possible decisions will be based on majority vote (i.e., 50% of membership, plus one).
- At least four members must be present before any issue is put to a vote. In instances of a split vote, the Chair will have the deciding vote.

Chair

- The Chair of the HRA will be selected by members. Members may nominate themselves as Chair and a vote will be taken where two or more nominations are made.
- Samaritans will chair the HRA from September 2015 to August 2016, at which time a new Chair will be elected by the membership.
- The Chair can only be nominated from the executive and must have served at least six months on the executive.
- Chair is for a minimum of one year and a maximum term of two years.
- If the Chair is indisposed, another member in attendance at the meeting can chair a meeting of the HRA.

Division of responsibilities for tasks

- All members will have equal responsibility for tasks undertaken by the HRA
- Members will seek to share tasks based on skills and capacity. Tasks will be agreed and clearly delegated at the end of all meetings.

Resources

- Currently there is no monetary funding to support the work of the HRA. As the need arises members will commit to seeking small amounts of funds from their representative organisations relating to small operational costs vis a vis events or publications.

Review of the purpose and activities of the Health Reform Alliance

- An annual review will assess the impact and actions of the HRA

Amendments

These Terms of Reference may be amended at any time when a proposal to amend them is passed by a majority of members.