



Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnystrie O Poustie
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Health and
Social Care



**Integrated Care
System NI**

Integrated Care System NI

Area Integrated Partnership Board

Voluntary and Community Sector

Supporting Information

February 2024

Introduction

Since inception, the Integrated Care System (ICS) model recognised the valuable role the VCS can fulfil in supporting a greater shift towards prevention, self-care, and the population health approach.

This kind of diverse impact across the wider determinants of health and wellbeing will be essential if the ICS in Northern Ireland is to succeed.

Procurement Objective – The Ask

The Department commissioned an independent organisation from the Voluntary and Community sector (VCS) to lead a robust and transparent appointment process.

The successful organisation is responsible for recommending to the Department between two and four appointees from the VCS for each of the five AIPBs. In addition to the initial twenty, a reserve list of candidates for each AIPB may also be recommended to replace vacancies that arise during the initial period of operation.

The Department will retain responsibility for approving the recommendations made.

The Department will also provide the role description and candidate competency requirements.

Supporting Information

What are AIPBs and their Key Functions?

Each AIPB is a local planning body for its geographical area. AIPBs have responsibility to:

- identify the needs of their local population (supported by a population needs assessment);
- agree on the priorities from the identified need, aligned under a Strategic Outcomes Framework;
- develop a plan to meet those prioritised needs particularly where cross-sectoral partnership working can deliver the greatest outcomes; and
- make recommendations on actions within the resources available to support delivery of the plan.

When undertaking the above they must do so with the objective of **improving outcomes** and **reducing health inequalities**. This is a population health approach to planning.

AIPBs will use a population health approach and improved integrated working across sectors and boundaries in the planning of care and services.

There will be five AIPBs established across the region. These will mirror the geographical boundaries of existing Health and Social Care Trusts.

The membership of each AIPB will include representation from across organisations and sectors which have a role in the health and social wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland. The membership includes representation from HSC Trusts and primary care, and service users and carers.

AIPBs are not limited or restricted to looking at specific areas, conditions, or programmes of care. However, what they must do is operate in line with the overarching strategic direction set by the Minister and the Department. To further support this, the Regional ICS Partnership Forum will provide AIPBs with guiding planning assumptions to support their work and clarify key strategic priority areas that they should reflect in their local planning approaches.

AIPBs are not service providers and their functions do not extend to the provision of care and services nor do they have responsibility for monitoring service provision and performance.

Each AIPB will be supported by strategic partners from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), and the Public Health Agency (PHA). These partners will provide broad ranging expertise and business support to AIPBs in the development of each partnership's Area Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Further information on the wider Integrated Care System can be found [here](#).

The Role of VCS Members on Area Integrated Partnership Boards

A comprehensive member role description is available separately which also includes details of remuneration, expenses and term of office. In summary:

VCS member key responsibilities include:

- Representing and acting on behalf of the voluntary and community sector, beyond the individual's own specific area of expertise;
- Supporting the AIPB in identifying health and wellbeing needs for the area as part of the planning process;
- Co-ordination of the VCS contribution to plans, identifying where it is best positioned to lead on delivery against agreed objectives and working to remove any duplication;
- To identify and explore the use and contribution of resources, including community assets within the voluntary and community sector, to advance shared goals and outcomes in Area Health and Wellbeing plans;
- To be a source of leadership and expertise representing the VCS within the AIPB, and work to promote and support the work of the AIPB amongst wider community planning partners; and
- To engage with and communicate the views of the VCS effectively and efficiently as possible to the AIPB.

In terms of time commitments for meetings, AIPB members will typically be required to commit one day per month to attendance at AIPB meetings. There may be a requirement for further work outside of meetings for preparation and engaging with the voluntary and community sector.

All AIPB members will share common responsibilities in terms of contributing to the creation of a compelling vision for the future health and well-being of the local population and to communicate this vision across the local area.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria and Essential Skills/Competencies

- Applicants wishing to be considered for membership of an AIPB must be a representative from a charity or other voluntary organisation with an interest

in health and social well-being within the area of the respective Area Integrated Partnership Board.

Other parameters the organisation leading the appointment process needs to apply are listed below.

- There must be balance between successful applicants to avoid over-representation from one or two larger organisations across the AIPBs.
- Appointee recommendations must be reflective of the local AIPB population which they will represent. Factors such as population demographics, urban/rural mix should be considered.
- Candidates need to be aware and be able to help other members be aware of the contributions, knowledge, and expertise the VCS brings to integrated care.
- Candidates must agree to represent the VCS as whole rather than any specific organisation or interest group.

Candidate Competencies and Experience

Below is a summary of the important skills identified through engagement with the sector. We are looking for members with a mix within each AIPB i.e. every member need not evidence the same skill set nor evidence every attribute.

Communications	Personal Attributes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent listening and communication skills. • Community engagement skills. • Negotiation and influencing skills. • Insightful – ability to ask the right questions and challenge assumptions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident with experience working at senior management level with an understanding of budgeting and resource allocation. • Understanding needs of Section 75 groups. • Community development skills. • Ability to think both locally and strategically and be solutions focused. • Integrity and honesty

Relationships and Networks	Planning and Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have strong links to local communities and voluntary and community sector in the area. • Ability to network with communities and organisations and be able to demonstrate those connections. • Track record of partnership and collaborative working. • Ability to build relationships and ensure that equality and diversity underpins the work of AIPBs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and knowledge of working across the Voluntary and Community sector with a proven track record in delivering improvements for the community. • Knowledge of the health and social care agenda and structures. • Experience of collecting and analysing information. • Experience representing a consortium of organisations outside one's own field of expertise. • Be able to demonstrate community development skills and knowledge. • Demonstrate through examples of co-production and an asset-based approach to planning and delivery.