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# Terms of Reference for Advisory Group:

*“Promoting Positive Mental Health and Preventing Suicide among Boys and Young Men on the Island of Ireland”*

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## Background to Project

The idea for this project was developed by the Men’s Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) in 2006, and the first bid for funding was submitted in 2007. MHFI had, even before this time, recognised suicide as one of the biggest threats to young men’s health, and had sought to bring stakeholders together to address this issue. At the same time, there was increasing recognition among statutory bodies that male suicide is an important cross-Border issue which requires cooperation and partnership working.

MHFI applied to the National Office of Suicide Prevention (Republic of Ireland) and the Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland) for joint project funding to develop an initiative. This was agreed in 2011, with two thirds of the total budget coming from the Republic of Ireland and one third from Northern Ireland. The money is channelled through the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) as the grant-holder.

## Aim of Project

The aim of this project is to promote positive mental health and reduce suicide among boys and young men in Ireland via a multi-layered community-based suicide prevention initiative.

## Objectives of Project

There are four key objectives to this project:

- Develop principles of best practice on how to promote positive models of mental health in boys and young men by reviewing existing mental health promotion and suicide prevention services and programmes - both national and international.
- Coordinate a stakeholder engagement process to share best practice - both online and face-to-face.
- Develop and pilot two initiatives which utilise the information generated.
- Inform the development of a national social marketing campaign - with a focus on the mental health of boys and young men in Ireland.

## Project Beneficiaries

The project will provide benefits at a number of different levels by:

- Helping to inform decision-makers and the development of key policies.
- Supporting practitioners working in the area of mental health promotion and suicide prevention in boys and young men.
- Seeking to have an impact upon the current situation in local communities.

## Project Duration and Timeline

The project will begin in March 2011 and last until the end of July 2012.

1 monthly blocks, beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

Phase																				
	Establish Advisory Group and complete recruitment process.																			
1	<u>Research &amp; Consultation</u> [a] Review international literature on men's health and suicide, and establish best practice guidelines on how to promote positive models of mental health and to prevent suicide in boys and young men. Make specific recommendations on how such guidelines should inform the development of suicide prevention training.																			
	[b] Conduct a consultation and stakeholder engagement process (North and South) to review principles of best practice in relation to positive mental health and suicide prevention among boys and young men.																			
	[c] Invite suggestions on 'what works' in relation to positive mental health and suicide prevention among boys and young men - using a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire.																			
2	<u>Pilot Programmes</u> [a] Identify pilot sites and prepare programmes and materials.																			
	[b] Develop, pilot and evaluate two initiatives, based on the outcomes from Phase 1 of this project, that are designed to promote positive models of mental health and to prevent suicide in boys and young men.																			
3	Compile a draft of the final report on key findings from the project and outcomes of the evaluation.																			
4	Final stakeholder engagement and validation of findings.																			
5	Publication and dissemination of Final Report.																			

**Advisory Group Membership**

The core Advisory Group shall be comprised of representatives from the lead partners in this initiative as well as a number of other organisations with specific experience in this field. The group may, if circumstances require, co-opt other relevant experts throughout the duration of the project.

The core membership will be drawn from ...

- Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) - Owen Metcalfe (Grant Holder)
- Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) - Noel Richardson (Chairperson), Colin Fowler (Director of Operations) and Michael Lynch (Board of Trustees)
- National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) - Susan Kenny
- Public Health Agency (PHA) - Madeleine Heaney
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) - Martin Bell
- Health Service Executive (HSE) - Biddy O'Neill
- Inspire Ireland - Derek Chambers (Director of Programmes and Policy)
- YouthAction NI Work with Young Men Unit - Michael Mc Kenna (Team Leader)

## **Role of the Advisory Group**

The role of the Advisory Group will be to ...

- Offer a broad range of experience, contacts, ideas, research and resources to achieve the aims of this initiative.
- Help to guide the overall direction of the project.
- Suggest the means to achieve the operational goals.
- Promote and raise awareness of the project.
- Provide support to MHFI to meet the objectives set.
- Help MHFI to review progress.

## **Modus Operandi**

- The Steering Group will meet three times per year.
- Meetings will be held in the Dublin office of the Institute of Public Health in Ireland.
- Owen Metcalfe (as the Grant Holder) will Chair all meetings. In his absence, meetings will be Chaired by Noel Richardson - Chairperson of the Men's Health Forum in Ireland.
- Additional business will be conducted on an ongoing basis via email and teleconferencing.
- Advisory Group meetings will be convened and minuted by the MHFI Project Manager.
- All minutes, updates and reports will be circulated via email.
- The Project Manager will provide a written update report to each meeting. This will be circulated in advance of each meeting.