



Minutes of the 404th NESC Council Meeting, 15th Nov 2013

The meeting took place in The Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough St, at 10 am.

Attendance: John Shaw (Chair), Ambrose McLoughlin, Barry Murphy, Karin Dubsky, Michael Ewing, Patricia Murphy, Edmond Connolly, Lorraine Kavanagh, Mary Walsh, James Doorley, Caroline Fahey, Seán Healy, Brid O'Brien, Ian Talbot, Tom Parlon, Tony Donohoe, Mike O'Sullivan, Shay Cody, Seamus O'Donohoe, Sally Anne Kinahan, David Begg, Mervyn Taylor and Kieran McKeown.

Secretariat: Larry O'Connell, Anne-Marie McGauran, Jeanne Moore, Noel Cahill, and John Sweeney.

Apologies: Sean Ó Riáin, Manus O Riordan, Mary Daly, Niamh O'Donoghue, John Moran, Geraldine Tallon, Frank Allen, Oisín Coghlan, and Edgar Morgenroth.

Minutes of the Meeting of Oct 2013 were approved.

1. **Matters arising:** The Deputy Chairman noted that council report 135 had been noted by Cabinet, published and received good media coverage. It was launched by Mr. Martin Fraser at a seminar on November 7th.
2. **Re-configuring Eldercare**

Anne-Marie McGauran provided a summary of the Council discussion paper, *Reconfiguring Eldercare*. She also introduced the Third Age initiative and invited one of those working on it, Dr Kieran McKeown, to provide an overview of one central aspect of that work, an analysis of well-being based on the national longitudinal study of older people (TILDA).

Members welcomed the paper which they saw as a timely analysis—of national opportunities, challenges and relevant international experiences—that can support the development of a more financially sustainable means of providing eldercare. In particular, it was welcomed by representatives from the Department of Health; who also stated that TILDA researchers would be asked to make a presentation to senior staff in the Department of Health and the HSE. Members noted that Dr McKeown's analysis and the Secretariat paper provide an important catalyst for a national conversation about eldercare and further policy development within the system.

Members raised a number of issues that could be given further consideration in finalising the paper; including, the Healthy Ireland initiative; the review of Fair Deal; further incentives for home retrofit for older people; the immediate challenge of the quality of some existing residential care facilities; local, county and community projects; the opportunity for Ireland to create a centre of excellence and develop care as a career of choice; the importance of empowerment and respect; consideration of the implications of the Bill on Assisted Decision-Making Capacity; mechanisms of instituting power of attorney; the role of standards; the importance of creating space for innovation and iterative development of new ideas; building in roles for older people in their communities; the need to engage with the med-tech and IT sectors; public transport in rural areas; the potential role of a social tax to incentivise participation in care in the community; the role of social enterprise; longer working lives; and the need to reflect on the title 'eldercare'; and intergenerational sensitivities. Members also noted that there are issues which bear on eldercare in important ways but agreed that these are beyond the scope of this paper, in particular the question of pensions.

In concluding, the Deputy Chair asked that the Secretariat continue to work in this area, by developing the paper and by considering how the discussion might be extended. It was agreed that the Council would return to this issue early in the new year.

The next meeting was set for: Friday December 20th Clock Tower, 10.00 am.