

VICTIM'S FORUM
FACILITATED WORKSHOP, 16/NOVEMBER/2023
WORKSHOP REPORT

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1. WORKSHOP PURPOSE

The purpose of the workshop was to conclude deliberations on the Forum's Terms of Reference and 2024 programme of work.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and agreed amendments. The revised Terms of Reference is appended to this report.

3. KEY POINTS DISCUSSED /AGREED

- a) Meeting locations could alternate between in-person and on-line and for in-person meetings could include Dublin-based venues and central venues outside Dublin, ideally on a train line and having regard for the time and resources involved for members to attend, particularly those at furthest distance from Dublin.
- b) The Forum agenda will be co-produced by Co-Chairpersons with input from members via email.
- c) A table of agreed actions points will be included in all Forum minutes, with a named lead agency/organisation and a timeframe. This will help to ensure that Forum meetings result in meaningful actions, outputs and outcomes.
- d) To support transparency, accountability and effective collaboration, all Forum meetings will start with a short bullet-point update on action items from the previous meeting.
- e) The Forum will aim to ensure alignment with other structures and initiatives relevant to the victims of crime, with a focus on synergies, complementarity and collaboration.
- f) An up-to-date Forum membership list will be maintained on the Forum website, with location and contact details.

4. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2024

A prioritisation exercise was undertaken to pare down the list of prioritised items from the March 2023 workshop into a programme of work for 2024, as follows:

4.1 Information-Sharing and Collaboration

Put mechanisms in place to promote accessible information-sharing and collaboration at Forum meetings and in between meetings, including by:

- i) Establishing a robust Terms of Reference which clearly outlines the Forum's role and function relating to information sharing and collaboration
- ii) Providing for the establishment of sub-committees to collaborate on and advance priority issues
- iii) putting mechanisms in place to enable the voice of victims to be heard

4.2 Influencing National Policy and Planning

Ensure Forum agenda and processes facilitate meaningful opportunity for updates, discussion and input on:

- i) new and emerging policies and plans
- ii) implementation of existing policies and plans

4.3 Legal Aid and Victim's Journey

Ensure Forum agenda and processes facilitate meaningful opportunity for updates, discussion and input on:

- i) the provision, issues, and understanding of legal aid
- ii) practical and strategic approaches to improving victims' experiences of the criminal justice system and access to support pathways.

4.4 Sharing Good Practice

Identify and share good practice and learnings, both at a national and international level, relating to victims fora, including: advocacy; supports; effective responses and enhanced outcomes for victims of crime.