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Gillian Martin MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport
Committee

30 June 2022

Dear Ms Martin,

Establishing a new National Drugs Mission Oversight Group

The First Minister launched the National Mission in January 2021 with the express aim of reducing deaths and improving lives. The Implementation Group has played a key role in the first year of the National Mission, considering vital topics such as access to mental health support, the pathways into and from residential rehabilitation and the implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment standards.

The first year of the National Mission was about building the foundations for change: rolling out MAT standards; taking a new approach to making more residential rehabilitation opportunities available; setting a new treatment target; increasing funding to community and grass-roots organisations; and setting the ground work for innovation such as through Safer Drug Consumption Facilities.

This year, and in the following years, the focus of the Mission has turned to delivering on those foundations. To support this, our structures and governance framework must reform. That is why I believe the Implementation Group must refocus on providing scrutiny, challenge and expert advice to both the Scottish Government and the wider sector.

I am therefore establishing a new Oversight Group to take up this task. It will bring together leaders from a range of organisations and backgrounds, including those with lived and living experience, clinicians, international experts, the third sector and local government. The first meeting of the group will be held on 30 June 2022. As with the Implementation Group, the membership, terms of reference and minutes from the group will be published on the government website. A full list of members can be found at appendix A which has been sent with this letter.

Yours sincerely



Angela Constance
Minister for Drugs Policy