



MUTUALS TASKFORCE MEETING
Thursday 1st September, 2011
1 Horseguards Rd
15.30 – 17.30

MINUTES

Attendees

| | |
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| Chair: Julian Le Grand | Peter Marsh |
| Patrick Burns | Nita Clarke |
| Ed Mayo | Jo Pritchard |
| Patrick Lewis | |
| Peter Holbrook | |
| Crown Commercial Representative for Mutuals | |

Officials

Head of Mutuals Programme
 Officials from OCS

Apologies

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Rachel Wolf | Donna Fallows |
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Welcome and introductions

- Welcome to the Crown Commercial Representative for Mutuals

Chair's Update

Update the Taskforce on work done over the summer:
 Meeting with Minister for the Cabinet Office who is content with work of Taskforce

Meeting with DCLG Senior Officials on the Right to Challenge

Meeting with Children's Minister to discuss children's social work practice pilots

ACTION:

- **Member of Taskforce is following up with senior civil servant in DfE**

Chair met with No.10 Special Adviser to discuss mutuals

General Update

Head of Mutuals Programme provided an update:

Mutuals team in the Cabinet Office has increased in size and will focus on three areas; strategy and communications, policy and delivery. OCS official will provide secretariat to the Task force

An announcement can be expected on the Mutuals Support Programme – public commitment to launch in October 2011

Discussion on distinctive offer of mutuals following publication of the Open Public Services White Paper

ACTION:

- **Chair and Taskforce to consider producing a discussion paper on when a Mutual is most appropriate**

Discussed whether a need for separate group made up of non-conflicted Taskforce members to advise on the Mutuals Support Programme

ACTION:

- **OCS officials to explore how this might be done and report back to Chair**

Action Plan

The plan was approved with additional detail needed around particular areas

ACTIONS:

- Chair and Vice-Chair to gather information from pathfinder buddies and assess patterns/themes etc. If other members wish to join inform Chair.
- Engagement and communications to be discussed in October taskforce meeting
- Member of Taskforce to provide a paper on Taskforce taking on role as part of UN Year of the Co-operative
- OCS officials to provide paper on how Taskforce evidence gathering sessions will proceed. Including extending all Taskforce meetings by 1 hour.
- OCS officials and members of Taskforce to work together on developing social care as a target sector for the Taskforce
- Taskforce members to consider are there specific areas which we should be concentrating on and which they'd be prepared to champion

Open Public Services White Paper response

Paper broadly approved. Needs additional content on:

- 'Mutuality lock'
- Procurement
- Access to finance

- Chris White Private Members Bill

ACTIONS:

- Officials to produce initial draft for TF members to add to
- Chair to take active role in finalising paper before TF clear

Pathfinder Buddying

Approach agreed – important to take into account logistical arrangements e.g. minimising travel time etc

ACTIONS:

- Taskforce to give preferences on Pathfinder buddies (1,2,3) to officials
- If Taskforce members wish to discuss particular Pathfinders or buddying, contact officials
- Officials to send confirmation of buddying matches to Taskforce members
- Officials to produce paper on process for buddying, including semi-structured interview schedule

AOB

SME Panel:

Taskforce have been asked to provide a representative to sit on the Cabinet Office 'SME Panel' which will oversee the Government's work to improve SME access to Government contracts

ACTIONS:

- **Officials to distribute more information on the Panel**
- **Taskforce members interested nominate themselves to Chair**

Listening Events:

Open Public Service White Paper listening events are being held independently to feed into the central listening exercise

ACTIONS:

- **Individual members of Taskforce to explore possibility of running an event focusing on the Mutuals questions in the White Paper**

Next Taskforce Meeting:

Evidence paper, Rights to Provide Priority areas and Communications to be covered