

Nursing Home Expert Panel Report
Implementation Oversight Team (IOT)
Meeting: 4th November 2020, 11 am

Meeting note

Attendees:

Kathleen Mac Lellan	Chair, Assistant Secretary, Social Care Division, DOH
Niall Redmond	Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Karen Greene	Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, DOH
David Noonan	Principal Officer, GP Services and GMS Contract, DOH
Georgina Bassett	Nursing Project Manager, Older Persons Policy Development, DOH
Malachy Corcoran	Principal Officer, Unscheduled Care, Department of Health, DOH
Rosarie Lynch	Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO, DOH
Prof. Cecily Kelleher	Chair of Reference Group
Clodagh Murphy	Assistant Principal, Acute Hospitals, DOH
David Walsh	Implementation Lead, HSE
Dr Siobhán Kennelly	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Older Persons, HSE
Gerry Clerkin	General Manager, Community Operations, HSE
Dr Kevin Kelleher	Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE
Pat Healy	National Director Community Strategy, HSE
Deirdre Lang	Director of Nursing, HSE
Carol Grogan	Head of Regulatory Practise Development Unit, HIQA
Susan Cliffe	Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA
Kelly Jones	Project Manager, HIQA
Fiona Walsh	Fair Deal Specialist, NTPF
Ms. Brigid Doherty	Public Interest Representative
Sandra Walsh	Assistant Principal, GP Services and GMS Contract, DOH
Nuala O'Reilly	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Catherine Gibson	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH

Apologies:

Fiona Larthwell	Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector of Social Services, HIQA

Secretariat:

Helen Simon	Administrative Officer Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Anne- Marie Herne	Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Stephen Dunk	Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH

DISCUSSION and ACTION POINTS

	Agenda item	Discussion and Actions Agreed
1.	Adoption of minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.
2.	Conflict of Interest	<p>There were no issues raised in this regard at this meeting. Chair issued a renewed call for outstanding forms.</p> <p>Action 2.1 Secretariat will contact IOT members regarding outstanding forms.</p>
3.	Update on Epidemiological Data	<p>An update on epidemiological data was presented including trends in relation to the general situation in Ireland, incidence rates, Hospital and ICU admissions, positivity rates and deaths linked to outbreaks in Nursing Homes.</p> <p>Following the presentation, a discussion was held on the positive impact of serial testing in nursing homes.</p> <p>Consideration of additional analysis was discussed, and it was noted that in line with Rec 6.7 HIQA, the HPSC and the Department met with the Chair of the Reference Group to discuss progression of this recommendation.</p> <p>Action 3.1: Secretariat to circulate Epidemiological data presentation to IOT and Reference Group</p>
4.	Matters for Referral to Reference Group	<p>The Chair asked the IOT members to inform the Secretariat if there are any issues/papers that could be referred to the reference group.</p> <p>Action 4.1 Members will inform the secretariat if there are any issues to be referred to the reference group including undertaking a horizon scan to provide an early notification to the IOT of papers/issues that may be proposed for referral to the Reference Group.</p> <p>Action 4.2 DOH will engage with HSE regarding the queries referred to the IOT from the Reference Group and prepare a collated written response to the queries.</p>
5.	Updates/Matters Arising	<p>The Chair confirmed that the Progress Report has been finalised and has been submitted to both Ministers. The report will be published on the website once it has been cleared.</p> <p>The 14.1 Document will also be published in the next short while. The next step following publication is that the HIQA and the HSE should agree a written protocol on communication within one month after.</p>

		<p>HIQA requested that some amendments be made to the 14.1 document prior to publication.</p> <p>Action 5.1 DOH will review the submission of final comments by HIQA to document 14.1 with a view to considering their inclusion prior to circulation and publication of the document.</p> <p>The HSE delivered a presentation on the operational supports that are being provided to nursing homes. Some key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) are active with daily engagements with a number of nursing homes. There is significant ongoing close contact with 18 nursing homes, with 11 requiring focused support.- The CRTs are engaging with the person in charge (PIC) regarding staff rotas and activating agency /redeployment of staff as necessary.- PPE stocks and distribution systems are running smoothly- There has been an increase in the demand for staff accommodation provision by the HSE.- The current draw down on the TAPS is at €50m.- The HSE have identified a small number of nursing homes which have not availed of the TAPS. <p>DOH provided an Update on extension of TAPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The TAPS has been extended to June 2021 with budget of €42m in 2021.- There has been a revision to some of the conditions to the Scheme with the principal focus of the extended scheme to contribute towards nursing homes' implementation of the Expert Panel recommendations.- Nursing Homes will be able to claim funding for keeping some single occupancy room vacant for infection prevention and control/isolation purposes under the new terms, subject to conditions. <p>Governance systems</p> <p>The Department and the HSE reported that they had met to follow up on enhancing governance systems for HSE staff engaging with private nursing homes during COVID-19. Further work by the HSE is ongoing. It was noted that certain clinical indemnity issues relating to publicly employed staff working in private nursing homes had been clarified.</p>
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		<p>Update on safe staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CNO's office confirmed that there is an 18 month time frame for the development of the safe staffing framework under recommendation 5.4 of the report but work was already well under way. - A guidance document based on learning from previous phases of the safe staffing framework has been developed for testing purposes and shared with colleagues in the HSE and planning is underway to commence a validation process. - The Chair suggested that the safe staffing framework be placed as a specific agenda item for the IOT - Action 5.2 The issue of safe staffing will become a standing item on the agenda, with particular reference to recommendation 5.5 on the development of guidance on interim changes as phase three is developed and rolled out.
6.	<p>Update on serial testing - health care workers</p>	<p>The HSE gave an update on Serial Testing of HCW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report on Serial Testing of HCW will be presented to NPHEP shortly. - There has been 75% uptake on the testing of Staff. - 50-55% of nursing homes have not had a positive test in staff since July. - The increased number of nursing homes performing their own self-swab tests is encouraging. - The rates of HCW attending work with symptoms and the availability of employer illness supports for HCW were raised. - DOH confirmed that Older Persons/Work Force Planning Units have engaged with DEASP on the issue of State illness benefits, including for HCWs. - DEASP are willing to explore a targeted campaign on the issue, but there is some further information required from the testing data to assist this work. <p>Action 6.1 The HSE will forward a report to the Secretariat on the uptake of the serial testing programme in cycle 4 following NPHEP's consideration of the report. The Secretariat will circulate this report to the IOT members once it has been received.</p> <p>Action 6.2 DOH will liaise with HSE (HPSC) to inform engagements with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) on exploring the development key messages for a campaign to be undertaken on illness benefits.</p>

7.	Update on communications campaign	<p>An update was provided with regards to the information campaign targeting persons-in-charge of nursing homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Communication Strategy will be used which will incorporate a Visual Mail Shot which will include various topics e.g. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing an outbreak 2. Breaking the chain of transmission 3. Encouragement to increase uptake of the flu jab - A bespoke website for Older Persons is also being developed. - 4 webinars are being planned in conjunction with the NCAGL for Older Persons - The Chair confirmed that the IOT will be happy to provide support to this work as needed.
8.	Update from Chair of Reference Group on the establishment of 4 short life subgroups	<p>The Chair of the Reference group gave an Update on the current work to date of the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Reference Group have meet twice so far and are scheduled to meet once a month. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 23rd November. - The Chair confirmed that 4 short-life subgroups are being established to examine the following topics: (1) IPC/Outbreak management, (2) nursing home integration/staffing/visitors, (3) communication and wellbeing and (4) the role of COVID Response Teams and GPs in nursing homes. - Each subgroup will hold a focused meeting. - DOH will provide Secretariat Support for these meetings - On foot of input from the HSE, the Chair of the Reference Group confirmed that the work of the group will proceed in line with work of the HSE and the IOT. - The necessity of synergy between each of the different streams of work was highlighted and agreed. <p>Action 8.1 Chair of Reference Group will report back on the progress of 4 sub-groups.</p>
9.	Presentation on the Expert Panel recommendations internal implementation structures that have been put in place by: HSE and HIQA	<p>The HSE delivered a presentation on their internal implementation structures.</p> <p>Some key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 68 of the 86 Recommendations fall within the scope of work that is currently underway. - 5 Individual work streams have been established to drive the implementation of the recommendations. - The HSE's Implementation steering group planned to meet on Friday 6th November with a view to developing key objectives and deliverables. - Significant work is currently underway in the areas of Strategy and Service Integration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continued development and importance of HSELand was discussed. - The critical importance of the Communications workstream to the overall implementation of the recommendations was highlighted. - HSE identified significant progress with regard to many of the recommendations within their responsibility. - The HSE noted that they are currently finalising the NSP and that they may bring a presentation to the IOT on the communication health network plans at the appropriate time. <p>HIQA also delivered a presentation on their internal implementation structures, noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A core team is overseeing the project of their internal implementation structures. - A Project Sponsor and Project Manager have been assigned to oversee the implementation. - The Group are meeting every 2 weeks and are currently developing targets and checkpoints for implementation. - The Group are also currently preparing approval of a Key Project Document. - A specific stand-alone email address is been developed for central communications. <p>The Chair thanked the HSE and HIQA for their presentations and acknowledged the significant work undertaken to date.</p> <p>Action 9.1 HSE will provide an iteration of the presentation the Secretariat for circulation to the IOT.</p> <p>Action 9.2 Secretariat will circulate the HSE presentation on the update of supports to nursing homes to the IOT members.</p>
10.	Tour de Table on implementation initiatives to be brought forward by year end and scheduling of papers to the IOT	The Chair asked the group to consider any documents or possible future Agenda items going forward.
11.	A.O.B.	<p>The issue of the ongoing reporting on the progress of the survey of implementation of the recommendations relating to individual providers was discussed in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DOH and HIQA held a meeting on the 3rd of November and agreed on the process for moving forward.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recommendations relating to individual providers are complex to capture succinctly and accurately in a survey/reporting tool - Phase 1 of the nursing home survey work will be an interim piece to identify the recommendations which can be more readily and accurately incorporated into a structured survey/reporting process - Phase 2 of this work will identify how to progress, shape and frame the balance of provider specific recommendations into a suitable survey methodology. It was suggested that the Reference Group may be able to assist and provide feedback on proposed wording of survey questions for phase 2. - DOH confirmed that NHI and HSE were asked to engage with relevant nursing homes under their individual remits in relation to an early survey on a subset of key questions. - NHI has returned their completed survey to DOH and have provided permission for the output to be circulated to the IOT and Reference Group. - HSE is continuing its survey work. <p>The next IOT meeting will take place on the 18th November @ 11.00</p> <p><u>Action 11.1</u> HIQA will send the preliminary draft of the 1st phase of the survey to capture the implementation status of nursing home provider-led recommendations to the DOH for review and commentary.</p> <p><u>Action 11.2</u> Secretariat will circulate report of survey conducted by Nursing Homes Ireland to the IOT members and the Reference Group.</p>
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