Nursing Home Expert Panel Report

Implementation Oversight Team (IOT)

Meeting: 18th 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
Clodagh Murphy	Assistant Principal, Acute Hospitals, DOH
Nuala O'Reilly	Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Helena Keleher	Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Neil Kavanagh	HEO, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Malachy Corcoran	Principal Officer, Unscheduled Care, Department of Health, 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
Mary Dunnion	Chief Inspector of Social Services, HIQA
Susan Cliffe	Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA
Kelly Jones	Project Manager, HIQA
Fiona Walsh	Fair Deal Specialist, NTPF
Prof. Cecily Kelleher	Chair of Reference Group
Ms. Brigid Doherty	Public Interest Representative

Apologies:

Fiona Larthwell	Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Rosarie Lynch	Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO, DOH
Deirdre Lang	Director of Nursing, HSE
Pat Healy	National Director Community Strategy, HSE
Carol Grogan	Head of Regulatory Practise Development Unit, HIQA

Secretariat:

Anne- Marie Herne	Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Stephen Dunk	Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Graham Mooney	Administrative 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 without amendment.
2.	**Conflict of Interest**	There were no issues raised in this regard at this meeting. The majority of COI forms have now been received. Action 2.1 Secretariat to follow up on outstanding COI forms
3.	**Update on Epidemiological Data**	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. There was discussion on the level of coverage of agency staff in the serial testing programme for staff. It was also noted that staff testing is voluntary and not mandatory. It was also noted that swabs are provided to nursing homes 48 hours in advance of testing to allow swabs to be collected from a range of staff across different shifts – it would be expected that agency staff and/or other infrequent support staff would be captured across the 48 hour period. It was agreed that the issue would be explored further by the HSE in the first instance and agreed that consideration would be given with regards to engaging with employment agencies to ensure that staff are encouraged to take part in the serial testing programme. Work is underway on a short workplace poster that is being developed collaboratively by the HPSC, DEASP, HSE and HIQA to address issues regarding public health information and income support benefit. Once approved, it will be distributed by HIQA via the provider portal. **Action 3.1:** Secretariat to circulate Epidemiological data presentation to IOT and Reference Group **Action 3.2:** Chair requested immediate consideration be given to the issue of serial testing for agency staff, with an update to be provided at the next IOT meeting. **Action 3.3:** HSE report on uptake of serial testing in cycle 4 to be circulated to the IOT and Reference Groups following NPHET's consideration of the report.

4.	**Matters for Referral to Reference Group**	It was noted that a formal response to the issues referred by the Reference Group issued from the Chair of the Implementation Oversight Team.
		Chair asked that members consider if they have anything they would like referred to the Reference Group for subsequent meetings.
		It was agreed that the paper on recommendation 9.1 (discussed under point 5) will be referred to the Reference Group for discussion at their next meeting.
		Action 4.1: HIQA and DOH paper on implementation of recommendation 9.1 to be referred to the Reference Group for consideration.
5.	**Updates/Matters Arising**	(a) General
		In line with recommendation 14.1, the document outlining the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in relation to nursing homes and the COVID-19 response in this sector has now been finalised and is entitled '*COVID-19 Response Nursing Homes Overview of Roles of Key Stakeholders*'. It will be published in the coming days.
		Action 5.1: HSE and HIQA to establish a communication protocol with regard to nursing homes as the next step in relation to recommendation 14.1. HSE and HIQA to consider and return a proposal to IOT.
		The HSE have carried out a survey amongst its nursing homes on the implementation of a subset of the recommendations. The survey is complete, and the results have been provided to the DoH. The Secretariat will arrange for circulation of the output to the IOT and Reference Group.
		Action 5.2: The output of the HSE survey (requested by DoH) on the implementation of a subset of recommendations in nursing homes operated by the HSE to be circulated by Secretariat to IOT and Reference Group members.
		There was a short discussion around the flu vaccine uptake and it was agreed an update would be provided by the HSE at the next meeting.
		Action 5.3: Update on flu vaccination uptake to be provided by HSE at the next meeting
		(b) Update on Safe Staffing
		Results of international evidence review are expected next week.

Interim guidance document on safe staffing has been compiled for early testing purposes. In the first instance the guidance requires validation at service level prior to validation/testing at provider level.

(c) Update on HIQA Surveys

Staffing Survey (audit)

A paper prepared by the Department and HIQA on the implementation of recommendation 9.1 (audit of staffing levels and qualifications) of the Expert Panel Report was presented.

The paper outlines the proposed audit approach, the process for data collection and the data utilisation. In addition, the paper sets out the approved audit tool, developed by HIQA with the support of the Chief Nursing Office in the Department. It was agreed that written feedback on the paper and proposed approach would be sought from the Implementation Oversight Team and will be further discussed at the next meeting. It was also agreed to refer this paper to the Reference Group for consideration at its next meeting on 23 November.

Action 5.4: IOT Members to consider and provide feedback and observations on HIQA and DOH paper on implementation of recommendation 9.1 regarding the survey on staffing levels and qualifications.

Action 5.5: HIQA and DOH paper on implementation of recommendation 9.1 to be referred to the Reference Group for consideration.

Action 5.6: The staffing level and qualifications survey will to be tabled as agenda items for the next meeting.

Survey of providers implementation progress (1st Phase)

HIQA confirmed that it has commenced the first phase of a survey with nursing home providers on their progress towards the implementation of relevant Expert Panel recommendations. The survey has been issued with a deadline of 1st December for returns. It was noted that the survey is on a voluntary basis. The output of this phase of the survey will inform the next Implementation Progress Report.

(d) Update on communications campaign

An update was provided with regards to the information campaign targeting persons-in-charge of nursing homes.
A series of webinars will commence this week and will run for the next

		4 weeks. The content and structure of the messages to be conveyed are being finalised.
6.	**Second Progress Report**	Work has been completed on the first progress report and is with the Ministers for consideration. Agency leads to be contacted in the next week or two with regards to preparing updates for inclusion in the second progress report. **Action 6.1:** Secretariat to contact the leads with regards to collating updates for next progress report.
7.	**A.O.B.**	It was confirmed that the memorandum to Government has been prepared and is currently under consideration by the Department. Chair stressed the urgency and importance of providing as much details on costings as possible. NTPF confirmed that its work in looking at COVID-related costs has been submitted to the HSE to form part of an overarching master report. Chair requested that the NTPF and HSE engage with Older Persons Service Oversight and Planning Unit in DoH in the context of finalising their work. Chair asked if NTPF could provide an overview of those costings at the next IOT meeting. **Action 7.1:** NTPF to prepare a paper and report on overview of cost analysis regarding COVID-19 and nursing homes.