

National Review of Specialist Cardiac Services - Summary of Steering Group Meeting

Date - 30.04.18

Location - Hawkins House, Department of Health

Attendees - Philip Nolan (Chair), Ken McDonald, James Crowley, Brendan McAdam, Geraldine McMahon, Macartan Hughes, Sharon Donohue, Tanya King, Celeste O'Callaghan, Lucinda McNeerney, Frank McFall, Sarah Condell (Secretariat), Stephen Duffy (Secretariat), Ruth McDermott (Secretariat)

Apologies – Peter Wright, Pat Nash, Kieran Daly, Claire O'Brien, Colm Henry, Kathleen MacLellan, Sinead Donohue

Summary of Discussion - The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Steering Group meeting. After approving the minutes of the Steering Group meeting of the 26th March 2018 and the Progress Summary (which outlines the progress in the main areas in the first three months of the Review), the Group had a discussion on the various work packages that comprise the Review.

In relation to Work Package 1, the Secretariat outlined to the Group the various sources of data that are currently being gathered/analysed i.e. Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) data, National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) data etc. The Secretariat also briefed the Steering Group on the survey which will be sent to Acute Hospitals in the near future.

The Secretariat then outlined the progress in relation to Work Package 2. A tender for Evidence Synthesis was launched in mid-April 2018 and it is hoped to have a contract signed by the end of June 2018. In addition, the Secretariat set out the headlines in relation to the consultation exercise. Regarding Work Package 5, the public consultation questions are currently being developed and it is hoped that the web-based consultation will open in June until August 2018 (the exact dates will be decided closer to the time). In terms of Work Package 4, the Stakeholder Consultation will be carried out via specific stakeholder events, the first of which is expected to take place in September 2018.

The Secretariat also informed the Steering Group of the delay in relation to the formation of the International Reference Panel due to various constraints upon certain individual international experts. If the delay persists, alternative routes to bringing on-board international expertise will be explored.

After a presentation from the Secretariat, the Group then discussed the revised Project Plan which sets out the work packages in greater detail (risks, clearer timeline etc.). It was agreed that the revised plan is comprehensive and represents a solid framework for the Review's activities. It was agreed that the Scope and Terms of Reference (both contained in the Modus Operandi) should also be added to the Project Plan for ease of reference. A section on Options Analysis will also be added once the Review has sufficiently progressed. The Secretariat will continue to monitor progress against the Project Plan, with the Steering Group performing a more formal review in October 2018.

The Steering Group then received a detailed presentation from Ken McDonald on the Heart Failure Programme, in which Ken set out some of the key stakeholders and statistics in this area, as well as some of the successful pilot projects. The discussion that followed focussed on increasing challenges due to ageing population, patient access to diagnostics, and some models of support for GP treatment of HF patients.

Decisions – Minutes, Progress Summary and Project Plan approved.

Actions – Secretariat to add Scope and ToR to Project Plan; Secretariat to circulate presentations on Programmes to SG members; Secretariat to seek examples of International Best Practice from SG; Secretariat to liaise with Programmes on access to data; Secretariat to organise workshop on Evidence Review Questions and first meeting of data sub-group.

Date/Time of next meeting – 25th May 2018, 1 p.m.