



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

Date - 26.03.18

Location - Hawkins House, Department of Health

Attendees - Philip Nolan (Chair), James Crowley, Jim McCarthy, Geraldine McMahon, Colm Henry, Claire O'Brien, Kieran Daly, Macartan Hughes, Sharon Donohue, Tanya King, Pat Nash, Celeste O'Callaghan, Sinéad Donohue, Kathleen Mac Lellan, Lucinda McNerney, Frank McFall, Sarah Condell (Secretariat), Stephen Duffy (Secretariat), Ruth McDermott (Secretariat)

Apologies – Ken McDonald, Peter Wright, Brendan McAdam

Summary of Discussion - The Chair welcomed the attendees to the Steering Group meeting and noted the presence of a number of new members who had been brought on to the Group to further enhance its expertise:

- Geraldine McMahon (St. James' Hospital) - nominee of the Irish Association of Emergency Medicine.
- Macartan Hughes (Chief Ambulance Officer) - nominee of the National Ambulance Service
- Kieran Daly (Clinical lead of the Acute Coronary Syndrome programme) - nominee of the HSE
- Claire O'Brien (Clinical Director for University Hospital Kerry) - nominee of the HSE

As the meeting scheduled for 1st March had been cancelled due to weather conditions, the Secretariat outlined to the Group those documents that had been cleared via e-mail i.e. minutes of 31st January meeting, Modus Operandi etc. These documents are now available on the Department of Health website.

The Group then discussed their interpretation of the scope of the Review. They considered it important to examine Specialist Cardiac Services in as comprehensive and holistic manner as possible and so preferred a broad and inclusive interpretation of the scope. In doing so, however, the Group recognised that this would necessitate a balance to be struck in order to deliver a timely review. The Group agreed that all areas within scope would be addressed, but some areas would be subjected to greater scrutiny and analysis than others that may be appropriately 'signposted'.

The Secretariat of the Review then provided an update in regard to four of the Review work packages. In regard to data, it was outlined that the Secretariat would be carrying out a survey of acute hospitals and seeking data relating to activity, population and geography. For the evidence review, the Secretariat was working on a tender for the synthesis service. In relation to the consultation, questions for a web-based survey were currently being prepared for discussion with the Group. A list of Stakeholder Organisations had also been created to assist with the stakeholder consultation phase. Lastly, a brief update was provided in relation to communication (webpage etc.)

Professor Kieran Daly, Clinical Lead of the Acute Coronary Syndrome programme, then provided the Group with an overview of the programme with a focus on areas of interest to the National Review. The discussion that followed focussed on the importance of data collection/analysis and the need for any Service that flows from the Review to be sustainable, reliable and well-resourced.

Decisions – Scope will be interpreted broadly but to ensure a timely report, some issues will be 'sign-posted' rather than fully explored.

Actions – SG members to volunteer for focussed work on data, evidence review, consultation questions.

Date/Time of next meeting – 30th April 2018. 11.30 a.m.