

Nursing Home Expert Panel Report

Joint Implementation Oversight Team (IOT) & Reference Group Meeting

29th April 2021, 14.00

Meeting note

Chairs:

Kathleen Mac Lellan Chair, Assistant Secretary, Social Care Division, DOH
Prof. Cecily Kelleher Chair of Reference Group

Implementation Oversight Team:

David Walsh Implementation Lead, HSE
Dr. John Cuddihy National Director, Public Health, HSE
Dr. Kevin Kelleher Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE
Deirdre Lang Director of Nursing / National Lead Older Persons Services HSE
Dr. Siobhán Kennelly National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Older Persons, HSE
Poul Olsen Interim General Manager - Older Persons Services, HSE
Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds Community Strategy, HSE
Fiona Walsh Fair Deal Specialist, NTPF
Susan Cliffe Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA
Brigid Doherty Public Interest Representative
Niall Redmond Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Emily De Grae Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Catherine Gibson Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Nuala O'Reilly Assistant Principal, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Deirdre King Project Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
De Montano
Karen Greene Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, DOH
Rosarie Lynch Head of Patient Safety Surveillance, NPSO, DOH
David Noonan Principal Officer, GP Services and GMS Contract, DOH
Georgina Bassett Nursing Project Manager, Older Persons Policy Development, DOH
Clodagh Murphy Assistant Principal, Acute Hospitals, DOH
Malachy Corcoran Principal Officer, Unscheduled Care, Department of Health, DOH
Fiona Larthwell Principal Officer, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Helena Keleher Principal Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH
Neil Kavanagh Assistant Principal, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH
Matthew Hornsby Assistant Principal, Older Persons Services Oversight & Planning, DOH

Reference Group:

Prof. Cillian Toomey Consultant Geriatrician
Prof. Brian Lawlor Professor of Psychiatry, St. James's hospital
Rachel Simons Director of Nursing/Manager for Clinical Strategy & Development Older Persons
Deirdre Shanagher Strategic Clinical Nurse Expert with Regulatory Compliance
Tadhg Daly CEO, Nursing Homes Ireland

Sarah Lennon Executive Director, Sage Advocacy
 Louise Loughlin National Manager, National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities
 Prof. Martin Cormican HSE National Lead for Health Care Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance
 Dr Lucinda Dockeray Chair of the ICGP Special Interest Group in Nursing Home Care
 Sharon Foley CEO, Irish Hospice Foundation
 Petrina Donnelly Chief Director of Nursing & midwifery, RCSI

Also in Attendance: Minister for Mental Health and Older People Mary Butler
 Laura Comber, HIQA
 Conor Teljeur, HIQA

Apologies:
 Mary Dunnion Chief Inspector of Social Services, HIQA
 Carol Grogan Head of Programme Regulatory Practice Development, HIQA
 Kelly Jones Project Manager, HIQA
 Anita Garner Chairperson, NHI National Nursing Committee, Clinical Operations Manager, Newbrook Nursing Home

Secretariat:
 Stephen Dunk Executive Officer, Older Persons Policy Development Unit, DOH

DISCUSSION and ACTION POINTS

	Agenda Item	Discussion and Actions Agreed
1.	Conflict of Interest	There were no issues raised in this regard at this meeting.
2.	Chairs Introduction and short address from Minister Butler	<p>The Chairs welcomed those present to the first Joint meeting of the IOT and Reference Group. The Chairs acknowledged the work to date, the commitment towards the strategic policy and operational response to the pandemic and the expertise on the IOT and Reference Group.</p> <p>The Minister for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler noted the importance of the work of the IOT and Reference Group, the progress made in relation to the Expert Panel Report recommendations, and commended the work undertaken by the IOT and Reference Group to date.</p>
3.	Update on Epidemiological Data	<p>Presentation on epidemiological data was provided. The Chair highlighted the positive impact that the vaccination rollout has had on the reduction of cases and outbreaks in nursing homes.</p> <p>HIQA highlighted the importance for vigilance over the next number of weeks and noted that nursing homes are still vulnerable if the rates of community cases remain high.</p> <p>The importance of vaccinations for new nursing home residents, who could possibly be awaiting a first dose and the need to ensure the availability of vaccinations for those awaiting their second dose was highlighted.</p>

		<p>The Chair noted the work of the AMRIC team in updating the guidance relating to vaccinations and admissions to nursing homes including hospital discharges.</p> <p>Action 3.1: Secretariat to circulate the epidemiological data presentation to the IOT and Reference Group.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Presentation HIQA-HPSC Data Analysis (Recommendation 6.7) (HIQA)</p>	<p>The Chair acknowledged the work of HIQA – HTA Team and HPSC in the development of the report. HIQA highlighted the collaborative approach to this work with the HPSC. The HSE noted the work on the data analysis was productive and positive.</p> <p>Discussion focused on the impact that nursing home design, structure and staff numbers could have on the potential for an outbreak. HIQA highlighted that a larger nursing home with more beds would lead to a higher footfall and a greater risk of disease entering the home. As stated in the report, the proportion of residents in a nursing home effected by an outbreak decreased with an increasing number of beds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The limitations of the data were noted and HIQA highlighted that the international literature indicates that the sharing of staff between homes is an increased risk factor. - The Chair noted the advice provided by the ECDC early in the pandemic relating to the importance of minimisation of staff sharing and the Irish public health guidance to this effect. - The need for stability of the workforce in preparedness for any future outbreaks was emphasised by the Group. The differences between the first and second wave and the important learnings gathered during each wave were noted. <p>A short update on the safe staffing taskforce was provided by Karen Greene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been 2 meetings of the taskforce and work is ongoing by the research team. - An international evidence review has been undertaken and the taskforce are examining different staffing models. - It is intended to pilot the proposed model using a number of nursing homes across the sector. Pilot site selection is now progressing, and it is anticipated that data collection will take place in in Q2/Q3 2021. - There has been extensive international engagement. <p>The Chair of the Reference Group highlighted that recommendation 6.6 was intended to look at individual case studies and individual outbreaks. The importance of the advancement of the work relating to this recommendation was noted.</p> <p>HIQA welcomed the discussion at today’s meeting and confirmed that the analysis was now finalised, and the report will be submitted to the Department and published soon.</p>

		<p>The HSE highlighted the importance of linking available data sets going forward.</p> <p>Action 4.1: Secretariat to circulate the presentation on the HIQA-HPSC Data Analysis to the IOT and Reference Group.</p> <p>Action 4.2: HIQA to publish the report on HIQA-HPSC Data Analysis and will submit to the Department once it has been finalised internally.</p>
5.	Visiting Guidance	<p>The HSE gave an update on the Visiting Guidance noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new visiting guidance will come into effect on the 4th May. - From two weeks after the date when a high proportion of all residents have been vaccinated four visits per week should be facilitated. - In the absence of a high level of vaccination of residents two visits per week should be facilitated in the absence of any critical or compassionate circumstances that require increased frequency of visiting. - The vaccination rollout has had positive impact on reducing harm from COVID. - The importance of the implementing incremental changes to the guidance was highlighted. - An information leaflet for visitors and residents has been prepared and it will be published on the website soon. - A webinar for nursing homes on the new guidance will take place on the 30th April. <p>The issue of some nursing homes not complying with the implementation of the visiting guidance and the importance of visits for nursing home residents was highlighted.</p> <p>The HPSC confirmed the general guidance for residential facilities has also been updated and fully vaccinated residents are not required to restrict their movements on return from hospital to the nursing home unless they have symptoms.</p> <p>HIQA confirmed that they engage with nursing homes providers and families of residents on visiting guidance and highlighted the importance of normalising visits and finalising the vaccination of residents and staff.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted the collective effort required to ensure as many visits as possible for residents and confirmed that Minister Butler has written to providers to highlight the importance of visiting and to HIQA requesting that they inform DoH of any systematic concerns regarding visiting.</p> <p>Action 5.1: Reference Group to link with HSE if the issue of non-compliance of visiting guidance in public nursing homes arises.</p>
6.	Recommendations 7 & 8 (COVID-19 Response	<p>The HSE delivered a presentation on Recommendations 7 & 8 (COVID-19 Response Teams/Community Support Teams/GPs</p>

	<p>Teams/Community Support Teams/GPs)</p>	<p>The Chair of the Reference Group acknowledged the important work which has been done to date. and commended the work of GPs in the vaccine rollout.</p> <p>It was noted that noted that the Reference group a have been engaging on recommendations 7 and 8 over the last number of months. The Chair confirmed that she received a joint NHI/ICGP position paper, which will be circulated to both groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of providing clarity on the evolution of CRT’s to CST’s and how they will work together for key stakeholders outside the HSE was emphasised. - The HSE confirmed that there have been positive engagements between the RCPI Nursing Home Clinical Advisory Group and the ICGP. The development of a position paper setting out the broad principles of the integrated model is proposed. - The importance of consultation with providers on the CRT to CST evolution was emphasised and the experience of DONs and the value they could add to this work was highlighted. - The need to identify and facilitate the needs of residents and the necessity to simplify the process for access to services was discussed by the group. The HSE acknowledged the importance of consultation and continued engagement with stakeholders and confirmed that the implementation of the different models will align with the recommendations of the NHEP. The HSE also confirmed that they will be happy to engage with NHI/ICGP on their position paper. <p>The Chair commended the work of both groups to date and highlighted the importance of ensuring that people can access to the services they require.</p> <p>Action 6.1: HSE National Director Community Strategy to hold further engagements with the Reference Group on COVID-19 Response Teams/Community Support Teams/GP’s</p> <p>Action 6.2: Secretariat to circulate the HSE presentation on COVID-19 Response Teams/Community Support Teams/GP’s to the IOT and Reference Group.</p> <p>Action 6.3: The Chair of the Reference Group to engage with the Chair of the IOT on the matter of next steps and possible action areas moving forward.</p> <p>Action 6.4: NHI and ICGP Paper to be circulated to both IOT and Reference Group members.</p>
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