



Women's Health Action Plan 2022-2023

Implementation Approach



Overview

Every year, the Department of Health and HSE lead a significant body of work on women's health. The [**Women's Health Action Plan 2022- 2023**](#) draws all this activity together for the next eighteen months for the first time. The Action Plan highlights what we are committed to delivering for women in Ireland in 2022 and 2023 – building on the steady progress to improve health outcomes and experiences for women.

What will be delivered in 2022?

- The Women's Health Action Plan commits to deliver 10 actions in the next 18 months.
- Some of the actions will lead to concrete service changes in the short term
- Some other actions are about exploring ideas and opportunities that could deliver better outcomes for women in the medium-term. This means that while we might see progress in 2022, we might only see tangible results in future years.

Who will lead the implementation?

The Role of the Department of Health

- In the short-term, the Department is going to play a strong leadership role to support the implementation of the 2022-2023 Plan by convening key stakeholders and driving forward a focussed approach to implementation
- As these plans take shape – and as services for women across the country grow and develop – the Department will start to play a more supportive role working through our key agencies to lead these changes
- Since 2019, the Department has grown leadership at all levels in women's health through the strong departmental participation at the Women's Health Taskforce
- To support 2022, the Department will sustain this leadership at all levels by formalising certain elements of the approach:

Leadership	Programme Management	Action Delivery	Organisational Support
At Management Board, a Champion to create a single point of leadership and accountability.	A new programme management team to plan and coordinate the implementation approach in partnership with the HSE.	Managers within the Department will lead action delivery initiatives as appropriate.	Drawing internal taskforce members from across teams in the organisation together into a Women's Health Network to link key initiatives and streamline implementation efforts.
At senior manager level, a new executive team to ensure shared input and oversight to the programme.	Fund management to ensure that actions delivery is directly supported by resource.		

The Role of the Health Service Executive

- The HSE is the lead agency for the health service and will have lead responsibility for the implementation of the Plan, as set out in the National Service Plan 2022
- In 2022, the HSE will embed responsibility for women's health in the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), a team with a strong delivery track record.
- Through strong partnership working across the Department and HSE we can ensure a planned, programmatic implementation approach which delivers results.
- This will involve leaders at all levels in both organisations, particularly service and clinical leaders in our health services.

Leadership	Programme Management	Action Delivery	Organisational Support
Maintaining the strong leadership of the COO on the HSE executive management team for women's health	A new implementation team embedded in the NWIHP programme team supported by senior and experienced staff – liaising with the Department of Health on a regular basis.	Managers and lead clinicians within the HSE will lead action delivery initiatives as appropriate.	A range of coordination mechanisms, led and supported by NWIHP, to engage key programmes, offices, and services in the HSE in the implementation programme and delivery of all actions.
Assigning formal responsibility for women's health to the National Women and Infants Health Programme in the HSE – led jointly by the Programme Director and Clinical Director			

The role of clinical leaders

- The Women's Health Taskforce and the Women's Health Action Plan 2022-2023 have had the regular and valued input of clinicians from a range of services supporting women since the outset of this programme in 2019
- This leadership is a crucial part of our approach, and we will continue to invite leaders to work with us and help us deliver the actions set out in this plan

The role of civil society

- Voluntary groups, advocacy groups, representative groups have also supported the development and critique of ideas since throughout the programme to date
- This partnership working with civil society will remain an important feature of how the actions in the programme are both reviewed and delivered.

A role for women

- Women's voices are central to the success of this Plan and informing preparations for the next.
- There will be targeted outreach and engagement to keep women involved and updated as the work progresses through the year, through events like the Women's Health Week.

A role for all-of government

- Recognising the multiple factors that inform and support women's health, we will work in partnership across government to address the multiple social determinants that influence health, bringing a women's health perspective to this work.

Stay involved and sign up for any updates at WomensHealthTaskforce@health.gov.ie