

Meeting of Pandemic Ethics Advisory Group Minutes

- **Attendees (via Microsoft Teams):**
 - Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan (Chair);
 - Prof. David Smith;
 - Dr Simon Mills SC;
 - Dr Barry Lyons;
 - Mr Stephen McMahon;
 - Dr Joan McCarthy;
 - Dr Andrea Mulligan BL;
 - Dr Louise Campbell;
 - Mr Mervyn Taylor.
- **Also in Attendance:**
 - Emily de Grae (secretariat);
 - Audrey Ní Chaoidealbháin (secretariat).

Minutes

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

1. Update from NPHE

- The Chair provided a brief update from NPHE (in order to maximise the time for discussing the draft Residential Care Settings paper).
- The Chair stated that advice regarding the various options in relation to the gradual lifting of restrictions was still under consideration.
- The secretariat provided a brief update regarding the publication of the Supplementary Information paper to “Ethical Considerations relating to Critical Care in the Context of COVID-19”.

2. Ethical Considerations Relating to Long Term Residential Care Settings (LTRCS)

- A brief overview of the draft paper was provided.
- There followed an in-depth discussion of the scope and approach of the paper and the following action points were agreed:
 - Given the diversity of the service and its residents/clients, the document will be high level guidance and will cover all LTRCSs and the ethical principles underpinning it will be specifically stated.
 - The document will be separated by themes and each theme will refer back to principles and will reference the Ethical Framework.
 - The Chair will edit the current draft to reflect the discussion and will then circulate to members for review.
 - Members will suggest/draft short sections and forward to the Chair for inclusion in the next draft.
 - It was agreed that the PEAG would meet to discuss the new draft and the consultation process.

- The Chair thanked members for their work on the document to date.

3. AOB

- Reporting mechanisms for mortality statistics, including excess deaths, were discussed.
- There was a brief discussion on non COVID-19 pathways of care. The Chair informed members that work was being undertaken in relation to this matter by the Acute Hospital Preparedness and the Behavioural Change subgroups of the NPHE, in conjunction with the HSE.
- The dissemination of the “Ethical Considerations Relating to Critical Care in the Context of Covid-19 was discussed. The Chair informed members that she would liaise with HSE colleagues to ensure optimal dissemination.
- It was agreed that the secretariat would be in touch with members regarding the next meeting date.