



Steering Group to assist the Department of Health in its development of a national policy on adult safeguarding in the health sector

Note of Meeting

Date	15 May 2019 (Meeting 3)
Location	Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, Dublin 2
Chair	Mr Niall Redmond, Services for Older People (DOH) (acting chair)
Members in Attendance	Mr Pat Benson, Public interest representative Ms Cornelia Stuart, Assistant National Director, Quality Assurance & Verification Mr Ian Kelleher, Policing Division, Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) Ms Gráinne Morrissey, Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) Ms Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, CORÚ, Social Care Regulatory forum Superintendent Kevin Daly, Community Policing Bureau, An Garda Síochána (AGS) Dr Collette Bonner, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (DOH) Anne Bursnell, Nursing Policy Unit (DOH) Mr James Gorman, General Manager, Patients' Private Property Accounts Central Unit (HSE) Ms Margaret Brennan Head of Quality & Patient Safety (HSE) Mr Tim Hanly, Manager, National Safeguarding Office (NSO), (HSE) Mr JP Nolan, Head of Quality & Patient Safety (HSE) Ms Mary Dunnion, Chief Inspector, Health Information & Quality Authority (HIQA) Ms Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission (MHC),
Apologies	Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan, Assistant Secretary Social Care Division (DOH)
In Attendance	Mr Conor Foy (Secretary), Services for Older People (DOH) Mr Cormac Fitzgerald (Secretariat), Services for Older People (DOH) Mr Ciarán Ó Maoileoin (Secretariat), Services for Older People (DOH)

Note: due to a scheduling conflict and other time limitations, some updates were postponed until the next meeting, and some agenda items were re-ordered in order to facilitate a fuller discussion on the most pertinent items

1. Standing items:

Note, Conflict of Interest Policy,

No issues arising. Note to be agreed via email prior to next meeting.

Administrative matters

- Superintendent Kevin Daly was welcomed to the group as the new permanent Garda Síochána member
- Anne Bursnell was welcomed to the group, as the rotating internal policy support group representative from DOH

2. Standing Updates:

- HSE adult safeguarding update



- Department of Health project update
 - Justice Sector update
- (these updates were postponed until next meeting)*

3. Presentation from Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, CORU and health and social care regulatory forum re professional regulation relevant to adult safeguarding

Main points from presentation:

- The UK's Shipman Inquiry changed professional regulation with a shift to greater focus on protection of patients.
- A "right touch" approach is current best practice, meaning regulation proportionate to the risk to the population
- There are safeguarding provisions in most codes of practice in Ireland, but these vary in language and intention
- Similar provisions on many issues are repeated across the various codes of practice
- Partnership and working together are very important in the codes of practice
- Ability to modify language and communications is important in most codes

Discussion main points:

- There is currently no safeguarding CPD (continuing professional development) requirement for health and social care professionals, but this could be considered
- Commonly occurring abuse types could be targeted to reduce or prevent occurrence of abuse
- Important to have agreement between sectors on the terms used (whilst understanding sector specific definitions may need to exist)
- Important to develop clear guidelines delineating which sector has responsibility and in which situation
- Regulation of non-medical professionals in health settings could be considered
- Expectation would need to be managed in relation to what an adult safeguarding policy for the health sector could realistically deliver
- It could be worthwhile to consider developing adult safeguarding case studies of failed or poor cases, to pinpoint where failure occurred and why. It may be useful to discuss this further with An Garda Síochána and HSE
- The appropriate regulation of health and social care professionals
- Interagency working arrangements could represent an "easy win" as it may not require additional resourcing
- "Connecting for life" the suicide prevention strategy was discussed as a good model for interagency working and co-operation



4. Presentation on prevention of abuse (Ciarán Ó Maoileoin, DoH)

Discussion main points:

The Steering Group was asked to break off into four thematic groups to consider the “top 3” priorities in relation to 4 specific issues raised during the presentation on prevention:

Topic: Regulation

1. Clarity of approach and responsibility
2. Clear process and follow up
3. Review Children First’s movement from policy to legislation

Topic: Multi-agency working

1. Consideration on role of memos of understanding
2. Interagency co-operation in relation to ASG currently depends on local arrangements and individual personalities, which is unreliable
3. Statutory child safeguarding meetings have clarity and focus, which is needed in the adult safeguarding context

Topic: Awareness and training

1. Safeguarding appeared to consist of 2 strands: in services and in private homes
2. In services, individual sector-specific safeguarding policies and plans may be the key
3. In the home prevention via awareness may be a solution

Topic: What is missing? (i.e. what was not discussed in the presentation)

1. Legislation
2. Multi-agency working (e.g. matching relevant contacts across agencies)
3. Measurement (data gathering) and Governance requirements on ASG (e.g. KPIs, compliance arrangements)

7. Summary of key feedback on primary definitions and discussion (Conor Foy, DoH)

(this item was cancelled)

8. Short presentation & discussion on policy consultation strategy discussion document (Conor Foy, DoH)

Discussion main points:




- Workshops with service providers and health and social care professionals may be worthwhile undertaking
- HIQA had developed a process for focus groups with adults at risk and DOH would liaise with them to discuss this
- The term “severe” or “enduring” mental health difficulties were offered as appropriate terms
- Important that mental health focus group participants were service users
- Public participation networks and council networks could provide useful links for adult safeguarding in the health sector

9. AOB, Actions & Wrap-up

- DoH to circulate discussion paper on prevention in advance of next meeting
- DoH to examine format of discussion papers/presentations with a view to identifying what the key questions for the Steering Group are.

Approved by Chair:

Signature: _____

 Date: 4 September 2019