



**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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>04 Sept 2019 (Meeting 4)</b>
<b>Location</b>	Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, Dublin 2
<b>Chair</b>	Dr Kathleen MacLellan (DOH)
<b>Members in Attendance</b>	Mr Pat Benson, Public interest representative Ms Cornelia Stuart, Assistant National Director, Quality Assurance & Verification 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) Ms Bevin Doyle, Social Care Integration 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, General 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), Ms Gráinne Griffin, Citizens Information Board (CIB)
<b>Apologies</b>	Dr Colette Bonner, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (DOH)
<b>In Attendance</b>	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)

**1. Standing items:**

**Note, Conflicts of Interest Policy**

- Ginny Hanrahan requested the following line in the note of the previous meeting be changed from:

“Workshops with service providers and professionals e.g. psychiatrists, relevant professional “colleges”, speech and language therapists”

to:

“Workshops with service providers and health and social care professionals “

**Administrative matters**

- It was noted that Ian Kelleher DJE, was not attending and would no longer continue as a member of the group due to changes in DJE’s internal structures and responsibilities. The



Chair thanked Ian for all his work with the group, and noted that the Department had been in contact with DJE and awaited the nomination of a new representative

- Gráinne Griffin, Senior Manager, Citizens Information Board was welcomed as a new representative on the group

## **2. Standing Updates:**

### **HSE adult safeguarding update**

- HSE's revised draft policy was recently internally approved by the HSE Review Development Group and there remains a window of opportunity for amendments
- A high-level implementation governance group for the policy, led by senior HSE management has been formed
- The National Safeguarding Office annual report will be published in circa 1 month. Summary of report:
  - Notification rates have plateaued
  - Increase in rates has plateaued
  - Number of concerns relating to older people has stayed consistent
  - The publication date has been delayed due to data validation issues
  - Important to note that this is not the totality of safeguarding concerns in the health system, only those which reach the HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams

### **Department of Health project update:**

- DOH is progressing with organising focus groups with adults at risk
- Following analysis by the Department, the Minister has given approval to HIQA and MHC standards subject to minor amendments. The Collaborative work of HIQA and MHC was commended by the Chair and the Steering Group
- Workshops with key stakeholders on October 23 are being planned by the Department

### **Justice Sector update (no update this week)**



### 3. Discussion on high-level policy issues focussing on governance or other gaps

#### **Operational safeguarding perspectives from the services, challenges, policy review & identified gaps – brief presentation [Tim Hanly- National Safeguarding Office, HSE]**

- A revised HSE operational adult safeguarding policy was required as the 2014 policy had been developed and implemented in an expedited manner
- The preceding 4 months had been spent on technical edits, legal advice, seeking more information from the researchers who undertook the UCD review
- The policy will now be presented at the HSE National Joint Council
- Some areas are still very much taboo and underreported, e.g. sexual abuse of over 65s
- There are likely gaps in notifications and data due to the many agencies involved, and many divisions within the health sector receiving reports independently
- It was important that ASG be recognised as everyone's responsibility – all health and social care workers
- Alignment with other policies is key
- Capital approval has been given for new HSE adult safeguarding IT infrastructure
- HSE made a policy decision to pursue face-to-face training as opposed to online (which the children first policy used)

#### Gaps:

- Cross-governmental consideration of adult safeguarding (acknowledging the Steering Group's remit in respect of the health sector specifically)
- The commencement of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) (ADMC) act and development of deprivation of liberty safeguards would greatly assist in safeguarding adults
- Potential overage of the policy in the private sector
- It was noted that NI ASG policy is based on Ministerial Direction without legislation
- Clarity on data sharing obligations
- Chair requested that the secretariat invite the relevant unit in the Department to speak at a future meeting regarding deprivation of liberty safeguards and the Assisted- Decision Making (Capacity) Act

#### **Safeguarding standards development & identified gaps –presentation [Deirdre Connolly (HIQA) - MHC/HIQA]**

- Noted approval of the ASG standards subject to minor amendments as requested by the Minister for Health, and thanked all those involved in the process
- ASG is an area undergoing significant change in Ireland
- A single pathway for adult safeguarding in the health sector would be preferable
- Whilst HIQA and MHC only have a regulatory remit in specific services, the standards were designed to be applicable to all health and social care settings and would ensure consistency when moving between services
- Three specific ASG elements are considered important in a national system:



- Departmental policy and legislation
  - Standards
  - Operational policies and procedures
- No ASG system in the jurisdictions looked at in the HIQA review was perfect or a model system
- An intersectional approach would be preferable to ensure appropriate liaison and referral
- HIQA and MHC are developing implementation tools to assist in implementing standards

**Discussion – Governance and other gaps – what can be encompassed under the DoH policy.  
Value add of a national policy and legislation compared to current approach**

**Integration (including of HSE processes and frameworks)**

- Discussion on the extent of how the HSE's current frameworks integrate. E.g. the adult safeguarding policy, patient safety policies, quality assurance, your service your say, trust in care etc.
- Discussion on which HSE framework takes precedence in which circumstance
- Potential risk in making the area of HSE frameworks too dense
- Importance of having easily understood frameworks
- Discussion on how best to operationalise the current HSE ASG policy
- There are huge opportunities with the increasing focus on integrated services under Sláintecare reforms to insure safeguarding is an issue across all services
- HSE may need to begin looking at "systems failure" analyses, i.e. causes of ASG incidents. Important that patterns are identified
- Important that line managers have clarity in relation to ASG
- Prevention is key. A preventative, population-based approach to identifying service users in the community at risk would be helpful
- For CHOs the plan is to operationalise safeguarding policy within the whole community
- A roadmap which incorporates all health sector ASG initiatives, including the Department's national over-arching policy, the HSE revised operational policy, HIQA and the MHC's standards, and how they interact and are timed, could be helpful
- There was conflicting information on safeguarding liaison and referral between different sectors and a lack of clear delineation of responsibilities, resulting in a lack of clarity at times
- HSE community patient safety had mapped its linkages to other frameworks and services recently
- The Chair requested that the HSE members liaise to develop a report regarding mapping of how HSE frameworks and services interact with each other in relation to Adult Safeguarding and consider what a Department of Health national over-arching national policy could do to support the work and address gaps. This is to include challenges as well as good practices or opportunities.



**The Chair invited Ms Gráinne Griffin, CIB to discuss CIB experiences with ASG**

- CIB fund a number of bodies who sit as members on safeguarding committees
- They take a pyramid approach toward their duties, with the most important and largest element of the “pyramid” at the base relating to advising the public, followed by advising public sector bodies who deal with the public, and finally with the narrowest top level relating to specialist services
- The Chair suggested that it would be appropriate for DoH and CIB to liaise to get an estimate of the number of ASG issues/reports passing through CIB and to discuss ASG

**Other topics**

- On comparisons with Children First it was noted that the Children First Act provides for mandated reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla and for improved child protection arrangements in organisations providing services to children. However, it is the Child Care Act 1991 that gives Tusla the duty to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection and the necessary powers to take action.
- Focusing on a legislative framework for ASG at this early stage in advance of national policy development may be premature
- The Chair requested that Ginny Hanrahan explore discussing Adult Safeguarding at Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum
- Consideration of how best to include expertise in data law and data sharing to inform the Group was considered important
- A suggestion that a presentation from the office of the Data Protection Commissioner might be helpful, or liaison with that office

**4. Update on circulated policy / strategy papers reflecting previous SG discussions:**

**Primary Definitions**

**Consultation Strategy**

**Stakeholder consultation workshops 23 October** (see outline paper as circulated)

- It was suggested that more private sector organisations could be invited to the workshops
- The Chair requested SG members to email the secretariat suggestions on:
  - Appropriate invitees for the workshop not covered in the consultation strategy
  - Headings for discussions at the workshop


**5. AOB, Actions & Wrap-up**

- The next meeting may need to be a longer one



Action	Deliverable(s)	Who
DOH to arrange meeting with CIB to discuss adult safeguarding, which could include information on scale of ASG reports / issues CIB deals with	DOH and CIB bilateral meeting	DOH / CIB
Progress tabling of a discussion relating to Adult Safeguarding at a meeting of health and social care regulators	Discussion relating to Adult Safeguarding at a meeting of health and social care regulators	Ginny Hanrahan
HSE members to liaise in developing a report	HSE report regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interaction and integration of relevant HSE frameworks and relevant divisions</li><li>• Data sharing</li><li>• Current issues with HSE ASG (Chair will send a letter to the relevant members with further details)</li></ul>	Tim Hanly Cornelia Stuart Margaret Brennan JP Nolan
Invite relevant DOH unit to speak regarding deprivation of liberty safeguards at a future meeting	Relevant DOH unit speaks at a future SG meeting re DOLS	DOH
Email the Secretariat with suggestions regarding top 4 topics to assist in structuring workshop discussions	Suggestions regarding top 4 topics for workshop discussions	All SG members
Review the list of suggested invitees to the workshops (the list of responders to the prior stakeholder consultation which may be found in the consultation strategy) and email the secretariat with suggestions regarding potential invitees which are not currently listed	Suggestions regarding potential invitees which are not currently listed	All SG members
DOH to organise meeting with Gráinne Morrissey, DCYA to discuss evolution of policy and legislation in child safeguarding and potential lessons for development of adult safeguarding in the health sector	Meeting between DOH and Gráinne Morrissey DCYA	DOH Gráinne Morrissey

Approved by Chair:

Signature:  Date: 9 October 2019