



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

Note of Meeting

Date	22 Nov 2019 (Meeting 6)
Location	Department of Health (DOH), Miesian Plaza, Dublin 2
Chair	Dr Kathleen MacLellan, DOH
In Attendance	Mr Niall Redmond, Services for Older People (DoH) Mr Liam Morris, Acute Hospital Policy (DOH) Ms Cornelia Stuart, Asst National Director, Quality Assurance & Verification, HSE Ms Martina Morey, Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) (<i>alternate for Ms Gráinne Morrissey</i>) Ms Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, CORU, Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum Mr James Gorman, General Manager, Patients' Private Property Accounts Central Unit, HSE Mr Tim Hanly, General Manager, National Safeguarding Office (NSO), HSE Ms Gráinne Griffin, Citizens Information Board (CIB), Public interest representative Mr Finbarr Colfer, Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA (<i>alternate for Ms M Dunnion</i>) Ms Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission (MHC) Mr JP Nolan, Head of Quality & Patient Safety Community Operations, HSE Ms Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chairperson, Safeguarding Ireland Sergeant Jim Clavin, An Garda Síochána (<i>alternate for Superintendent Kevin Daly</i>)
Apologies	Mr Deaglán Ó Briain, Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) Ms Gráinne Morrissey, Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) Dr Colette Bonner, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (DoH) Ms Mary Dunnion, Chief Inspector, Health Information & Quality Authority (HIQA) Ms Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission (MHC) Superintendent Kevin Daly, Community Policing Bureau, An Garda Síochána (AGS), Mr Ms Margaret Brennan, Head of Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Operations, HSE
Secretariat	Mr Conor Foy (Secretary), Services for Older People (DoH) Mr Cormac Fitzgerald, Services for Older People (DoH) Mr Ciarán Ó Maoileoin, Services for Older People DoH

1. Standing items

- No conflicts of interest were noted
- The previous meeting's note was accepted without alteration
- The chair noted the following apologies:



- Mr Deaglán Ó Briain, Department of Justice and Equality (DJE)
- Superintendent Kevin Daly, Community Policing Bureau, An Garda Síochána
- Dr Colette Bonner, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (DoH)
- Ms Mary Dunnion, Chief Inspector, Health Information & Quality Authority (HIQA)
- Ms Margaret Brennan, Head of Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Operations, HSE
- The Chair welcomed Finbarr Colfer (attending as an alternate for Mary Dunnion, HIQA) , Ms Martina Morey, Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) (attending as an alternate for Ms Gráinne Morrissey), Sergeant Jim Clavin, An Garda Síochána (attending as an alternate for Superintendent Kevin Daly)

2. Standing updates

HSE National Safeguarding Office

- The 2018 NSO data report was published recently
- The NSO held their seminar on ethical issues in ASG in October, focussing on ethical issues
- Governance of the NSO within the HSE has changed from services for older people to the community patient safety and quality pillar
- The 2014 HSE safeguarding policy remains in place
- A tender will be published next week for a new IT case management system for HSE's adult safeguarding functions which will be future proofed, with usage intended to extend across the HSE

Department of Health

- On 4 December Minister for Health is launching HIQA/MHC joint national standards on adult safeguarding, which is a significant development in adult safeguarding policy for the health sector
- A commissioned evidence review research project will commence on 26 November (subject to contract signature).
- The first two adult at risk focus groups took place on 5 and 19 November
- On 23 October two stakeholder consultation workshops held were held by DOH in Miesian Plaza and attended by 47 key stakeholders. An output pack will be prepared and circulated.

3. Presentation by Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Chair, Safeguarding Ireland), views on

- **HSE national policy and approach to safeguarding adults.**
- **System challenges, enablers and priorities for the new national policy on safeguarding adults at risk in the context of their interactions with the health sector.**

Presentation main points



- The good work of the HSE policy was acknowledged
- Additional focus needs to be given to institutional abuse as well as consideration of need for differing reporting arrangements for such abuse within institutions
- Other relevant HSE policies (e.g. Trust in Care, patient safety framework) should be reviewed through a safeguarding lens
- HSE 2019 and 2014 policy has an overreliance on the services themselves, which may result in differing application and interpretations
- There is a lack of clarity in relation to case management responsibility between Safeguarding Protection Teams (SPTs) and Quality and Patient Safety
- It would be useful for the HSE to investigate unpaid debts before writing them off as this may be related to financial abuse
- NSO could have a legal expert and financial expert, and a larger role in education and training
- **System challenges**
 - A health-centric view of safeguarding denies the multifaceted nature of abuse
 - Policy needs underpinning of legal framework to be more effective
 - Right of access to adults at risk is an issue
 - Limited data
 - SPTs are not regulated by HIQA
- **Enablers**
 - Knowledge from international research / smart practices
 - 2014 Policy is an enabler
 - Harvesting of knowledge and data from the safeguarding and protection teams
- **Priorities**
 - An open culture in the health and social care sector should be progressed and there needs to be focus on the empowerment, human rights and experience of the person at risk
 - Expertise and learning for adult safeguarding needs to be fostered and maintained
 - Policy must include all health and social care equally irrespective of public / private split
 - There should be an independent management structure for adult safeguarding to avoid a conflict of interest
 - Focus on prevention and identifying abuse must be key
 - Development of an integrated data collection and management system should be prioritised

Discussion

- CORU noted meeting with the regulators would be convened to discuss safeguarding - important that there is a consistent approach



- DEASP will be working on legal access to information for their advocates
- GDPR is an issue that frequently arises as a barrier to information sharing, but some of these issues are perceived rather than actual, and further clarity is needed
- The policy needs to be very clear about who the target group is, and a “suite” of existing safeguarding legislation should be drawn on, similarly to the child safeguarding situation
- Awareness of identifiers of abuse in services by staff would be a significant help
- Additional focus on prevention is needed
- Safeguarding in health and social care services in the community, e.g. public health nursing, home supports needed to be looked at
- An oversight body for adult safeguarding in the health and social care sector will be an important consideration in the national policy

4. Stakeholder Consultation Workshops – Presentation by DoH

- DOH gave a short overview of the interactive stakeholder workshops which were held on 23 October
- The two workshops were held by DOH in Miesian Plaza and attended by 47 key stakeholders
- DOH received positive feedback regarding the workshops from participants
- A feedback report on the outcomes of the workshop is in development and will be shared with the Steering Group and stakeholders by DOH when finished

5. Presentation & discussion on interagency collaboration for adult safeguarding involving the health sector (Tim Hanly, General Manager, National Safeguarding Office)

- The HSE’s incident management framework has a “no wrong door” approach, meaning that if a complaint did not enter through the right channel, it would be found a “home”
- The HSE has a draft Data Sharing Arrangement under consideration with Tusla and has entered initial discussions on a Data Sharing agreement with DEASP
- There have been a number of case reviews over the years highlighting need for improved interagency collaboration
- A case example was cited where it was not the lack of services, but the multitude of services involved which was problematic
- There are a number of formal arrangements e.g, a reference group for funded agencies and Regional CHO ASG committees
- Joint training with An Garda Síochána has been very successful
- **Challenges**
 - Commitment: mandate must be explicit, and commitment must be explicit- whether it is an agreement or legislation etc.
 - If collaboration is not a core part of duties, it may be seen as a low priority
- **Opportunities**
 - Joint training shows promise



- An interagency-related KPI in various organisations could prove useful

Discussion

- Data Sharing Agreements are not sufficient on their own, as they give no explicit mandate, i.e. they facilitate people working together rather than ensuring it
- Training is currently being rolled out for AGS, with one on harm reduction coming up soon, there is scope for joint training with HSE
- Important that the top levels of management are involved with adult safeguarding
- A lot of work was done on interagency connections between HSE and children services when children first was established which may be worthwhile trying to access

6. AOB, Actions

- The Chair thanked the Steering Group and the DOH team working on the policy for their work
- The Chair encouraged the members to share the interagency mapping document to be returned to DOH within their organisations and with their relevant stakeholders
- The DOH team will continue drafting the policy
- DOH will convene an additional meeting of the SG in the first half of 2020 and contact the SG to schedule this when needed
- DOH to share report of stakeholder workshops with the group

Approved by Chair:

Signature: Katie Kelle Date: 12 June 2020