



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	12 July 2020 (Meeting 7)
Location	Online meeting hosted by Department of Health (DOH)
Chair	Dr Kathleen MacLellan, DOH
In Attendance	Mr Pat Benson, Public Interest Representative Ms Geralyn McGarry, Public Interest Representative, Citizens Information Board (CIB) Ms Cornelia Stuart, Asst National Director, Quality Assurance & Verification, HSE Mr Tim Hanly, General Manager, National Safeguarding Office (NSO), HSE Mr Mary Dunnion, Chief Inspector, HIQA Ms Rosemary Smyth, Mental Health Commission (MHC) Mr JP Nolan, Head of Quality & Patient Safety Community Operations, HSE Ms Gráinne Morrissey, Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA)
Apologies	Mr Niall Redmond, Services for Older People (DOH) Mr Deaglán Ó Briain, Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) Dr Colette Bonner, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (DOH) Mr James Gorman, General Manager, Patients' Private Property Accounts Central Unit, HSE Ms Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, CORU, Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum Superintendent Michael Corbett, An Garda Síochána
Secretariat	Mr Conor Foy (Secretary), Services for Older People (DOH) Mr Ciarán Ó Maoileoin, Services for Older People (DOH)

1. Note, apologies, COI

- The note was accepted, subject to correction of one typographical error (DCYA representative included in both attendance and apologies lists)
- The Chair welcomed new appointees:
 - Superintendent Michael Corbett of An Garda Síochána, (replacing Superintendent Kevin Daly)
 - Ms Geralyn McGarry, Citizens Information Board (replacing Gráinne Griffin pending appointment of a permanent CIB nominee)



- No Conflicts of Interest were declared

2. Update on project work to date since last meeting

DOH update:

- The approach to work on the policy was adapted due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Physical meetings of the Steering Group were not convened, but various elements of the preparatory work continued
- Two major evidence documents to inform the policy are due to be completed imminently:
 - A report on service user focus groups undertaken by the IPH on behalf of the Department with at risk cohorts who will be directly impacted by the national policy (12 focus groups and 82 participants around the country in 4 different cohorts)
 - A comprehensive adult safeguarding evidence review, commissioned via a tendering process with input from the Steering Group, building and expanding on literature reviews by HIQA/MHC and the HSE, which is expected to be a valuable resource as a significant and comprehensive up-to-date evidence base for developing the policy

Updates on work items agreed at previous meetings:

- Procurement for a new adult safeguarding IT system (HSE National Safeguarding Office / NSO):
 - NSO had been close to going to tender for the IT system, but due to the emergence of COVID-19-related priority IT procurement items, a new schedule is being sought for procurement
 - NSO is proceeding with implementation planning and has been supporting preparedness workshops for the revised HSE adult safeguarding policy
- Inter-agency mapping exercise (All / DOH)
 - Chair requested that the template for this exercise be recirculated to capture recent developments
- Discussion regarding adult safeguarding at a meeting of a sub-group of health and social care regulators (CORU / Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum)
 - The Chair requested that the Secretariat contact the relevant member for an update in relation to this



- HSE provided an update on the requested work package re the interlinking of the various patient safety, quality and safeguarding systems
 - Chair requested that the HSE continue work on analysing interactions between the various HSE policies and structures (and with other agencies) in relation to adult safeguarding, for discussion at the next meeting

3. Project next steps

- DOH focus will be on early finalisation of the two major research project reports in liaison with Mazars and IPH and on drafting policy based on those reports
- The Chair:
 - Stated that milestones need to be kept under review due to the rapidly evolving situation
 - Requested that the Secretariat organise a meeting of the Steering Group in July, and another in September

4. Discussion on new or emerging adult safeguarding issues arising in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to be taken account of in the policy

- Key points:
 - World Elder Abuse Day is 15 June. NSO has a number of initiatives planned
 - The impact of cocooning on older people was noted
 - MHC has commenced a survey with (180-plus) mental health centres asking for details of experiences / issues
 - There was potential for increase in restrictive practices
 - Older people's confidence in being able to view residential settings as their homes
 - Post COVID-19 regulatory inspections are planned
- The Chair drew the Steering Group's attention to recent guidance on ethical considerations relating to long-term residential care facilities in the context of COVID-19 which had been published by the Department and approved by the NPHET. Secretariat to forward to the group.



5. AOB (none)

Summary of actions agreed:

- HSE to continue work on analysing interactions between the various HSE policies and structures (and with other agencies) in relation to adult safeguarding, for discussion at the next meeting (Tim Hanly, JP Nolan, Cornelia Stuart, Margaret Brennan)
- DOH to circulate the recently published Guidance on ethical considerations relating to long-term residential care facilities in the context of COVID-19 (Secretariat)
- DOH to request update from CORU re Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum subgroup discussion on adult safeguarding (Secretariat)
- DOH to re-circulate mapping template (Secretariat)
- Steering Group members to update the mapping template for their own organisations, and to advise the Secretariat where they consider it would be useful to circulate it to other organisations, and return the completed templates to healthsafeguardingpolicy@health.gov.ie (All)
- DOH to arrange next meetings of the Steering Group in July and September (Secretariat)